

NEWS

in brief

IDF says it's rooting out racism and prejudice

IDF commanders, speaking amid reports of further mistreatment of minorities, said yesterday that the army is rooting out racism and prejudice.

"We are raising the issue in talks with commanders and soldiers," said Lt.-Col. Mofid Utman, head of the minorities branch. "We are operating an open day for the public for the soldiers and their families. They will be able to come each Thursday to an office where they can raise all their problems."

"Officers who are not clear about how to behave to those under their command have no place with us," OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine said, in a communiqué.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Okef may have shot tourists after gambling loss

Negev police are investigating whether Daniel Okef, 45, the suspect in the murder of a British tourist and wounding of his girlfriend, may have shot them because he was distraught over losing money at a casino in Taba hours before the crime.

Okef, a reserve army major from Even Yehuda, allegedly confessed to the August 13 shootings last week.

Police said Okef picked up his victims, Jeffrey Max Hunter, 22, and Charlotte Gibb, 20, in the Eilat area, and that he shot them after stopping for a cigarette 45 km. north of Eilat.

Itim

Three die on roads

Road accidents claimed the lives of a truck driver in the Yeroham area, a man near Masmyia junction and a woman in Yehud.

The truck apparently overturned at the Yeroham-Negev Road junction because the driver was speeding. Medics pronounced him dead at the scene. Lipo Silvan, 23, from Ashdod, died after crashing into a truck near the Masmyia intersection. His girlfriend, from Eilat, was seriously injured and taken to Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifia.

The third fatality, a 50-year-old woman, rammed into a semi-trailer near Yehud, and died of her injuries at Sheba Hospital.

Itim

Two killed by train

Two young men on their way to Haifa's South Beach were killed yesterday morning when they were hit by a train while crossing the tracks. Police said the two apparently did not hear the approaching passenger train, which makes little noise.

Itim

Knesset panel to discuss haredi housing

The Knesset State Control Committee will convene today to examine charges that haredim are getting preferential treatment from the Housing Ministry at the expense of other sectors of the population. MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), who raised the issue, said that he would ask the state comptroller to investigate the matter. Chairman Yossi Katz (Labor) said the committee would ensure that the allocations are based on objective criteria and not influenced by political bartering.

Basheva Tsur

Shahak gets prison-not report

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak yesterday received the IDF's report on the Aug. 11 takeover at Military Prison No. 6. Shahak must decide whether to remove the warden, Lt.-Col. Yitzhak Ben-Ami.

The report was compiled by Brig.-Gen. Avraham Assael, director of Military Education. Sources say the report criticizes prison intelligence for failing to detect the discontent so as to avert a rebellion.

The Military Police is conducting a separate investigation to decide whether prison commanders should be charged.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Eliezer Ya'ari to head New Israel Fund

Eliezer Ya'ari, the editor of Channel 1's *Mabat Sheni* has been named director of the New Israel Fund, effective October 1. The fund supports apolitical organizations that promote civil rights, women's rights, social and religious pluralism, Jewish-Arab coexistence, and governmental accountability.

Ya'ari, 47, who has a master's degree from the Harvard School of Public Administration, has served in several capacities at Channel 1.

He replaces Avinam Armoni, who has been the fund's director for seven years. Under his leadership, the fund's budget grew from \$5 million to \$14m.

Itim

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother

CHAIM (Hermi) PEARLMAN

The funeral will take place today, Monday, August 25, 1997, at 3 p.m. at the Hayarkon cemetery.

Mourning and sadly missed by the family.

Shiva at the family residence, 8 Rehov Ido, Ramat Chen (Tel. 03-674-3634, 02-563-1415).



The World Zionist Federation mourns the passing of
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President of the Zionist Supreme Court
from 1978 to 1987

Avraham Burg
Chairman of the Executive

With deep sorrow and profound grief we announce the passing of our beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister and dear friend

SARAH SEGEV

The funeral took place yesterday.

The family

Shiva at the home of the deceased,
8 Rehov Harduf, Maccabim.

MKs to hold 'solidarity meeting' in K. Shmona

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset will not hold a special recess session in Kiryat Shmona on Wednesday and instead will hold "a solidarity meeting" with MKs and representatives from different parties.

Deputy Speaker and Likud whip Meir Sheerit said the plan was changed after faction heads withdrew their requests for a special debate on economic and security issues and because local council

heads in the North asked to be able to address the session, which is not allowed under Knesset House Rules.

At the solidarity meeting now scheduled, council heads will be able to speak and ask questions. Sheerit said he decided to cancel the special session in consultation with Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, who is currently abroad, and Labor whip Ra'anan Cohen.

Tichon's original decision to hold a special session in Kiryat Shmona

came under fire from Jerusalem Mayor and Likud MK Ehud Olmert, Labor MK Yona Yahav and former Labor MK and Ma'alot Mayor Shlomo Buhbut, among others, with many claiming the plan affected Jerusalem's standing.

Tichon had said that the decision to hold the special session in Kiryat Shmona was made in consultation with the deputy speakers, as an act of solidarity with the North following the Katyusha rocket attacks.



New road opens

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (left) turns on the lights at yesterday's inauguration of a new section of the capital's Rehov Harakevet, while Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy looks on. The two-kilometer stretch, which includes two bridges, will provide a more direct route from Talpiot to Malha.

PA appeals for intervention

By HAIM SHAPIRO
and news agencies

The Palestinians yesterday appealed to the US and Europe to intervene to end the closure of Bethlehem, demolition of houses, and alleged Israeli plans to send hit teams into Palestinian-ruled areas.

Chief negotiator Saeb Erekat sent a letter to US envoy Dennis Ross, European Union representative Miguel Moratinos, and other leaders complaining about Israel's actions. "We urged them to interfere directly with the Israeli government to put an end to such measures," he said.

The closure of Bethlehem was highlighted yesterday when the army blocked a dozen tour buses carrying 600 Christian pilgrims from Italy outside the town. The pilgrims were led by Cardinal Luciano Giovanetti and staged a prayer service at the road-block until Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai granted the group permission to enter Bethlehem via a different road.

Meanwhile, a small group of Palestinian youth threw stones at soldiers at Rachel's Tomb. The soldiers responded with rubber bullets and tear gas.

David Bar-Ilan, communications adviser to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, called Palestinian

claims that Israel planned to send troops into the autonomous areas baseless "disinformation."

"There is no particular plan at this point, and certainly nothing to warrant this kind of warning," he said.

Bar-Ilan said the claims are "obviously designed to divert attention from the fact that the Palestinian Authority has decided on a confrontation with Israel, rather than a confrontation with the terrorist groups."

He added, however, that Israel "reserves the right to apprehend terrorists in areas controlled by regimes which do not act against terrorism."

Palestinian officials said the closure of Bethlehem, is killing tourism - the city's main lifeblood.

"The economy is destroyed completely," said acting mayor Dr. Hanna Nasser. "The city is losing a quarter of a million dollars daily. Why don't they let the tourists enter Bethlehem? They are coming from all over the world."

Bar-Ilan said the closure is "not a sanction" and was based solely on the recommendations of security officials.

An Islamic Jihad poster distributed throughout the territories, meanwhile, said the organization has not agreed with the PA to halt terror attacks.

Military court institutionalizes Noam Friedman

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The Jaffa Military Court yesterday found Noam Friedman, the soldier who fired on a crowd in the Hebron market last January, unfit for trial and committed him to a mental institution.

The court ruled that Friedman, 22, was mentally unbalanced and could not stand trial on charges of attempted murder, mutiny and attempted enticement.

The charges were brought against Friedman last month after he was released from Kfar Shaul, a Jerusalem mental clinic. He pleaded guilty at the time.

Yesterday in court, Friedman, wearing a blue baseball cap and sunglasses, said he regretted his actions. "I am sorry for what I did. It was something that should not have been done," he said.

A team of IDF-appointed psychiatrists found Friedman mentally unstable and unfit for trial months ago, but a second evaluation disputed the finding.

A psychiatric report submitted to the court yesterday said Friedman was disturbed, not responsible for his

actions, and therefore undeserving of punishment.

On January 1, Friedman, of Ma'alot Admurim, opened fire in the Hebron casbah, killing off 15 rounds and injuring six Palestinians before an IDF officer wrestled him to the ground.

At his first court martial, Friedman said his motive was to prevent Israel from handing most of the town to the Palestinian Authority, as occurred later in January. Friedman also said he wanted to avenge the death of Baruch Goldstein.

He was discharged from the army the following month on mental grounds.

All four Palestinians shot by Friedman were discharged from hospital. Two had leg wounds, but none was seriously wounded.

Friedman's court-ordered commitment to a mental institution is indefinite and he will only be allowed out with psychiatric approval.

During his previous stay at Kfar Shaul in Jerusalem, Friedman attended yeshiva classes and visited his home. Palestinians protested and accused Israel of being too lenient.

Anti-litter campaign a success

By LIAT COLLINS

As advertising campaigns go, this one could be said to be a success - literally. Most of the country apparently agrees that "People who litter are trash."

This is the main finding of a survey carried out by Teleset for the Environment Ministry, to follow up on its current "Keep the country clean" campaign.

The campaign with the dirty slogan has apparently hit home. Ninety-three percent of those interviewed concurred with the statement: "When I see people littering it makes me angry." 79% said the fines for litterbugs should be raised, and 88% remember the campaign.

The survey showed 70% feel the ads have influenced them to try to stop littering.

The survey was carried out on a representative sample of 503 men and women.

Environment Minister Rafael Eitan said the findings are "encouraging," showing that more than 90% of the population perceives the matter is important.

Heads of northern communities plan protest campaign

By DAVID RUDGE

Heads of northern border communities are planning to launch a protest campaign from next week unless the government honors its commitments to give the North special aid because of the ongoing terror threat from south Lebanon.

While they will meet with MKs coming to Kiryat Shmona on Wednesday for a "solidarity meeting," they made it clear that they are no longer prepared to accept empty promises from government officials.

They are demanding a meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, as promised by his office

yesterday, immediately on his return from his trip to the Far East.

The spokesperson for the forum, headed by Ma'alot-Tarshua Mayor Shlomo Buhbut, said they had only heard from the media that Netanyahu had pledged to meet with the council heads after returning from his trip.

"The forum is demanding to meet with Netanyahu, or if he has not returned, with the defense minister and the committee of director-generals, by Friday at the latest," said the spokesperson. "If a meeting is not convened by then, the council heads intend to stage a demonstration in Jerusalem on Sunday to coincide with the weekly cabinet meeting."

The council leaders are demanding that the government honor commitments made by the previous administration after Operation Grapes of Wrath, to give NIS 900 million over three years in additional aid to the North.

They maintain that no additional money has been forthcoming this year for improving bomb shelters and building more security rooms for homes, as well as improving facilities in the region.

The council heads are threatening to keep schools closed at the start of the new term next week unless cutbacks in school hours are reinstated.

Tourism in North badly hit

By DAVID RUDGE

Katyusha attacks on the Galilee after weeks of tension in south Lebanon have dealt a body blow to tourism in the North at the height of the season, according to local operators.

They estimated the damage in terms of lost income at NIS 35 million - NIS 40m. in the past month.

"Overall, cancellations of bookings for hotels, boarding houses, and holiday villages in Upper Galilee has reached about 30 percent," said Moshe Atiya, director of the Upper Galilee Tourist Board. "We estimate the damage in lost

Hotel occupancy down,
Page 8

income at NIS 35 million - NIS 40m., but this does not include the indirect losses to restaurants, cafes, gas stations, and other facilities providing services.

Tourism in the Western Galilee, which was also hit by Katyushas on Tuesday morning, has been further undermined by the decision of Club Med to close its Achziv resort a month before schedule.

"Club Med is one of the world's biggest tourist operators and the decision to close the Achziv resort does not help our image abroad," said Yoni Gidoni, head of the Western Galilee Tourist Board.

"The fact is, however, that there is very little tourism from abroad this year and most of it has come from local tourism, which in turn has been hit by the security situation. Nevertheless, I'm still hopeful the situation will improve, especially for the holidays in October."

Tourism Ministry Director-General David Livak said a special budget of NIS 500,000 had been agreed upon with the Treasury to help publicize and market holidays in the North.

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Teachers walkout over cuts still threatens start of school year

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Teachers' unions expressed skepticism yesterday about whether the new school term would begin on time, warning they had not yet agreed with government cuts in staff and classroom hours.

A new disagreement also emerged between the Education and Finance Ministries over how much each was supposed to pitch in to finance the longer school day.

The differences were raised only a day after the Education Ministry said it had reached agreement with the Treasury, and that it expected the schools could open on schedule on Sept. 1.

"The Education Ministry's statement that the school year would open on time can't make up for the large cut in education which caused problems that have not been solved," said Ron

Erez, chairman of the Secondary School Teachers Association.

His union, Erez said, "whose teachers and principals are still completely in the dark regarding the number of hours and teachers for each class on Sept. 1, cannot open the public about this."

He indicated that the disagreements centered on a deep NIS 800 million reduction in the education budget made last May.

Erez questioned the wisdom of implementing a plan that would add two hours to the school day for 15% of the nation's pupils at a time when many schools lacked enough basic supplies, such as computers, libraries, laboratories or funding for Talmud classes.

Hisadur Teachers Union Secretary-General Avraham Ben-Shabbat also warned that he would have to verify whether teaching positions

and classroom hours that were cut this year have been restored.

"Until these things are implemented in the field, we stand behind our intentions not to open the school year," Ben-Shabbat said.

Parents Association officials were also skeptical.

"We think it's too early to celebrate," National Parents Association chairman Shai Lachman said. He added it was still unclear what kind of agreement the Education Ministry had reached with the Treasury.

Lachman said the Parents' Association was demanding there be no reduction in classroom hours, or increase in class size, and that advisers and other school personnel be kept on the job.

Shmuel Abuav, chairman of the Union of Local Authorities' council on education, said there was still no solution for financing many educational programs, air conditioning,

gymnasiums and renovations planned for some schools.

Education Ministry officials even questioned the terms of an agreement reached Saturday night to finance the longer school day.

A ministry spokesman said the agreement called for the Treasury to contribute NIS 270 million and the Education Ministry, NIS 70 million. But the Treasury argued that the Education Ministry was supposed to come up with NIS 130 million to foot the bill for the longer school day.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer seemed sympathetic to teachers' demands. He called the threatened cuts to the education budget "brutal and unnecessary," and said he was "not experiencing any great delight" over the situation.

Hammer added that Education Ministry officials were "doing everything they can" to make sure that the proposed cut of two class hours per week would be eliminated.

Long school day funding agreement

According to a Finance Ministry official, the NIS 400 million for the long school day - the key element in the battle over the Education Ministry budget - was supposed to come from the following sources: NIS 270 million from the Finance Ministry, NIS 130 million from other sources, including internal Education Ministry cost cutting.

Asked whether the current allocations meant pupils would still lose two hours of classroom instruction a week, the official said: "We only deal with the financial side - we left that to the ministry."

Asked if the whole problem could not have been resolved sooner, the official said: "There's a simple problem here: We're responsible for the government coffers. We presented solutions; they said they couldn't do it. I think there were other interests at work here, and the fact is that they eventually found ways they could save NIS 60m."

Aryeh Dean Cohen



Pupils from Jerusalem's Boyar School fill backpacks with school supplies yesterday. The supplies are destined for 1,500 orphans in Rwanda. (Vera Etzion)

Pupils raise money for Rwandan orphans

Pupils here have raised more than \$50,000 to buy schoolbooks, notebooks, backpacks, uniforms and shoes - and to pay high school tuition fees - for orphans in Rwanda.

The school supplies and uniforms will go to about 1,500 Rwandan orphans, ages 12 to 18, in the Kibungu area, and tuition fees will be paid for 250 of the neediest children for four years.

The shipment of school supplies is due to be flown out via El Al today, and should arrive at its destination by November.

Project "Back to School" is sponsored by the Foreign Ministry, the Education Ministry, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and JDC-Israel.

The money was donated by more than 50,000 pupils at 500 schools. An additional \$100,000 was raised by contributions from an anonymous donor and American Jewish organizations. The project is the latest in a series of Israeli-led efforts in Rwanda.

(AP)

Court to decide on Ben-Ari remand

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

High Court Justice Ya'acov Kedmi is to decide tomorrow whether to remand Zvi Ben-Ari (formerly Gregory Lerner) for a further 15 days.

Ben-Ari has already been in custody for 106 days. Yesterday, the prosecution demanded another extension of the remand, saying there had been "serious developments" abroad which make it imperative to keep him in detention. This information allegedly connects him to serious crimes committed abroad, the prosecutors said, adding that within two weeks they expect to be able to issue an indictment.

The developments are believed to be connected with the visit to Moscow of Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani.

Earlier, the prosecution had said Ben-Ari could try to flee the country if released.

Ben-Ari is suspected of being a major figure in the "Russian mafia" here, of massive bank fraud, of

being involved in the murder of a Russian banker, and of trying to influence politicians.

There have been only four cases in the history of the state where a suspect has been remanded for more than 100 days and one of these was Ivan Demanjuk, said Ben-Ari's lawyer, Yoram Sheftel.

He added that no one had ever been held more than 90 days on suspicion of crimes other than murder. He said his client is being held "for mere white-collar crimes" and so long a remand is unthinkable.

Sheftel argued that it is illegal to ask for a remand extension beyond 90 days on the basis of secret information, and that the material should be revealed or the request for the extension rescinded.

He charged that the prosecution is continuing to call his client by his former name in court, "because Gregory Lerner sounds more like a mafia character than Zvi Ben-Ari."

Kedmi said he would have to consider the arguments and would reply in two days.

Itim contributed to this report.

Kibbutz plans to raise monkeys for animal experiments abroad

By LIAT COLLINS

The annual parade for animal rights organized by the Anonymous group in Tel Aviv yesterday was dominated by a news story that Kibbutz On-Hanar in the South is planning to establish a breeding farm for monkeys and other primates to be exported for animal experiments.

According to a report in *Yedioth Aharnon*, an American company has promised to provide the kibbutz with young primates which will be kept in cages until old enough to be transported for vivisection.

The project reportedly calls for scores of primates to be raised at the kibbutz a year. The kibbutz will

earn thousands of dollars for raising the animals before the experiments.

Apart from the country's animal welfare groups, some kibbutz members apparently have protested the proposal. Let the Animals Live spokeswoman Eini Altman said her group along with others would do everything legally possible to stop the plans for the center going ahead. "We will not have a part in the mass murder of these animals," she said. She said many of the primates would be sent to the US military to be used in tests on chemical warfare.

Kibbutz secretariat member Nir Ben-Yisrael noted that experiments on animals in the 1950s got rid of polio.

"You can't find any better justification than that," he said, adding that the kibbutz would run the operation according to international standards for breeding centers.

The protesters condemned animal experiments as not only cruel but poor science. Anonymous spokesman Nimrod Halperin noted the results of animal vivisection cannot always be projected onto humans.

The kibbutz received a permit from the veterinary services and the Nature Reserves Authority, which noted the proposed center met all international and local standards for holding the captive animals. A similar center raising primates for experiments exists at Kibbutz Mazon.

Galilee village seeks 'sulha'

By DAVID RUDGE

Police are remaining on duty in Turan village in the Lower Galilee following a renewal of fighting between Moslem and Christian residents over the weekend that left five people injured.

Israeli Arab leaders are expected to visit the village today in an effort to heal the rift and help forge a *sulha* (reconciliation).

There is concern that the interreligious battles in Turan might spread to other areas of the Arab community unless the issue is resolved soon. Guns, knives and stones were used in the fighting on Friday night, which was finally brought under control by police.

The renewed flare-up follows the signing of a *sulha* accord in May after a month of sporadic fighting in which a Christian resident was killed and at least four Moslems were wounded.

Some members of Turan's minority Greek-Orthodox Christian community have accused rival Moslem families of using violence to force them out of the village. Eighty percent of the village's 9,000 inhabitants are Moslems.

A number of the Christian families have left because of the underlying tension that has continued since the previous round of fighting, despite the accord that was reached at the time. According to some reports, Moslems accused some of the Christians of being "traitors" and of "collaborating with Israel."

Local council head Nagi Nessar met yesterday with Northern Region police commander Alec Ron and senior officers to discuss ways of restoring calm in the village.

Nessar called on the Christian families who left to return and help in the efforts to heal the rift between the two communities. He maintained that despite the fighting and lingering bitterness, a *sulha* would be achieved.

"There are still many fears about the future of our village, but I'm convinced that we will overcome the problems and everything will return to what it was before all this broke out," said Nessar.

Negev report shows environmental hazards

By LIAT COLLINS

A report on the Negev, published by the Environment Ministry yesterday, shows two principle hazards.

The industrial zone in Ramat Hovav is situated above a fracture in the ground which indicates a high probability that hazardous materials leak into the water and travel long distances. There is also a "worrisome level" of organic material in the underground water.

The survey was carried out by Dr. Eilon Adar and Ronit Nativ of Ben-Gurion University.

Environment Minister Rafael Eitan and ministry staff toured the Ramat Hovav toxic waste site and industrial zone yesterday to get a first-hand look at the new incinerator, which should be fully operational within a couple of months and will begin dealing with the tons of hazardous organic waste at the site.

The incinerator is considered by the ministry to be the best possible solution for handling the toxic waste, although it has been criticized by Greenpeace as potentially causing pollution. Eitan said the incinerator works to European standards, which are stricter than those of the US.

In the ministry's 1995 report on air pollution, it was found that the main source of the problem and the stench in the area is the evaporation ponds in the industrial zone (which is run separately from the toxic waste dump).

The ministry has been demanding the Ramat Hovav Industrial Zone Council establish a biological wastewater treatment plant. On Thursday, Eitan sent a letter to council head David Milgrom demanding the written schedule for its establishment by August 28.

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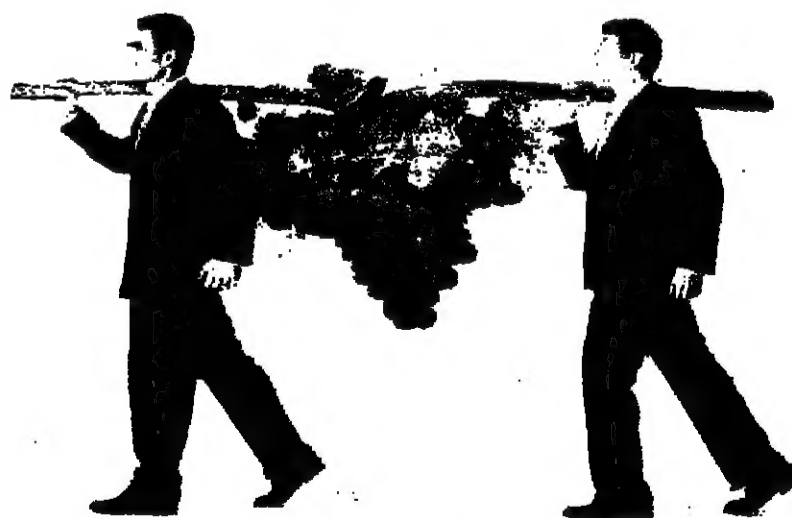
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US seeking Iran inroads

By PATRICK WORSHP

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — With one eye on the emerging oil boom in Central Asia, the US is dropping fresh hints of an interest in improving ties with Iran, where a new government, including some moderates, was approved last week.

The signals — of little more than a readiness to respond should Iran decide to shift its foreign policy course — were being put out more in hope than expectation.

Previous approaches since relations were severed in 1980 have been rejected by an Iranian leadership that still sees Washington as "the great Satan."

But the unexpected victory of reformer Mohammed Khatami in presidential elections in May, and now the block approval of his cabinet by the Iranian parliament have revived US interest in watching which way things are going in Tehran.

"To the extent that the election of President Khatami and the approval of his cabinet indicate that the will and welfare of the people of Iran will be reflected by its government, we would welcome that," said State Department spokesman James Rubin.

Roger Kangas, a scholar at the Central Asia Institute of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, said, "People are taking this seriously. There is a sense of 'will there be new developments or even just new choices of words?' Likewise I suspect Iran is looking for the same from the US."

Significant appointments by Khatami include new Culture Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashami, a relative liberal, and Foreign Minister Kamal

Kharrazi, who spent years living in the US in his former role as ambassador to the UN.

Iran's exiled opposition and many Western scholars argue, however, that the new "moderate" image is a sham and that neither Khatami nor any government he appoints have any power to change Iran's foreign policy.

This, they say, is controlled by Iran's supreme religious leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and by anti-Western extremists loyal to him. Any changes are likely to involve only domestic affairs, these analysts say.

"Governments come and go but our principles stay intact," one prominent Iranian cleric, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, told a prayer meeting last Friday. "These principles are Islam, Islamic Revolution, and not giving in to Israel and America as long as they treat us with hostility."

US analysts say the administration has to tread with extreme caution in the minefield of relations with Iran, a country seen by Israel and its powerful lobby in the US as the greatest single threat it faces.

US conditions for a dialogue with Iran, reaffirmed by officials last week, include agreement by Tehran to discuss its alleged support for terrorism and pursuit of nuclear weapons and its hostility to the Middle East peace process.

Iran insists that Washington must drop the terrorism charge.

While the rhetoric has remained unchanged, analysts say that what is new is the growing importance of Iran's northern neighbors, former Soviet republics in the Caucasus and Central Asia who are sitting on as much as 200 billion barrels of oil reserves.

This fact, some analysts believe, could eventually lead the US to see Iran less from the per-

spective of the Middle East and more in its Central Asian context.

Iran, a major oil power, sits astride one of the key routes for piping out these reserves, which oil companies are now ready to bring to market.

"There is a general push for strengthening ties with Iran in the region," Kangas said. "You can't avoid Iran. These countries associate with Iran. Pipelines are going to go through."

The US says it wants to see orderly development of the oilfields. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, in a speech last month, called for efforts to avoid a 19th-century-style "great game" of competition between the major powers over Central Asian oil.

Already Washington has decided, controversially, that it will not stand in the way of a plan by Turkey to import natural gas from Turkmenistan via a pipeline through Iran.

The administration ruled last month that the project did not violate the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, which penalizes foreign companies that invest in the oil or gas sectors in Iran or Libya. US companies are banned from dealing with Iran.

While Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and other officials insisted the decision was not meant as an olive branch to Iran, some commentators said it appeared to be dictated by commercial concerns.

"On the one hand, the US constantly reminds everyone that under US law, Iran — like Cuba — is economically 'untouchable,'" said Stephan-Götz Richter, publisher of the *TransAtlantic Weekly Wire* newsletter.

"Yet this policy seems expendable as soon as American interests decide to go after Central Asian oil," Richter wrote in *The New York Times*.



Papal devotion

A French worshiper listens to an address given by Pope John Paul II during a giant mass marking closing ceremonies of World Youth Day in Paris. More than one million people turned out to hear the pope's address, scheduled on the anniversary of a 16th-century massacre of Protestants by Catholics. (AP)

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GENERAL

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Report: Kohl to dump finance minister

By ERK KIRSCHBAUM

BONN (Reuters) — A German government spokesman yesterday denied newspaper reports that Chancellor Helmut Kohl is about to drop his finance minister, and sources in Kohl's party said he would choose his own time for a reshuffle.

The *Bild am Sonntag* weekly quoted sources close to Kohl as saying he is annoyed that Theo Waigel had gone public with his desire to leave the Finance Ministry next year and would grant the wish now.

The conservative *Welt am Sonntag* said a reshuffle would take place before an election in the state of Hamburg on September 21.

But a government spokesman in Bonn said: "The government denies the reports... They are part of the series of false speculation."

Senior officials in Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) said they doubted the chancellor would make changes that were first reported in newspapers.

They said Kohl is indeed looking to change his cabinet at some point, but is not about to let others dictate his actions.

The newspaper reports said Kohl's top lieutenant, CDU parliamentary leader Wolfgang Schäuble, would replace Waigel and head a "super ministry" com-

bining the Finance and Economics portfolios.

Bild am Sonntag quoted "a close Kohl ally" saying that "a finance minister who announces plans to resign can no longer fight successfully in parliament for tax reform and abroad for a stable euro. Kohl believes you shouldn't stop people who want to go."

The political crisis was sparked when Waigel said he is tired of the job, particularly thankless as Germany struggles with a huge public deficit, and wants to leave it next year.

Waigel, 58, later said he does not want to quit in 1998. But the half-hearted retreat failed to quell speculation about his future and fuelled a row among the three parties in Kohl's center-right coalition.

Waigel fanned the flames in an interview with *Focus* magazine, to be published on today, when he said a cabinet reshuffle is definitely planned before the 1998 election.

The row has further eroded public support for Kohl's unpopular government.

A survey published in today's edition *Der Spiegel* showed the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) widening their lead over the CDU. The Ennrid survey showed a potential left-wing alliance of SPD and Greens would get 50 percent support to 41 for Kohl's coalition.

SWEDEN

Continued from Page 1

What is more, most signs of 40 years of forced sterilization have disappeared from Swedish school and history books, Zaremba says.

One victim, 72-year-old Maria Nordin, said she was viewed as educationally "inferior" because she had no glasses as a child and could not see the school blackboard.

Thrust into a school for the mentally subnormal, Nordin was called into an office at the age of 17 — during World War II — to sign some papers.

"I signed because I knew I had to do it to get out... I was sent to Bollnas hospital where they took everything out. A Doctor Ingvarsson said to me, 'you're not very bright, you can't have children,'" she said.

Wallstrom, who confessed to feeling ashamed that she originally rejected Nordin's application for damages in 1996, said she would raise the subject in cabinet.

"It's the least I can do."

The silence surrounding this issue has been caused by it going so deep in society. People are defending themselves," she said.

Wallstrom said the rise of neo-Nazism in Europe and the ability of scientists to manipulate genes meant this was a good time for such issues to be discussed.

Drawing comparisons between Sweden and Nazi Germany is like rubbing salt on a wound for many Swedes, who already feel shame about Sweden's neutrality during World War II and help offered by governments at the time to the German war effort.

The issue of forced sterilization is also painful to a country which prides itself on a liberal tradition of a broad welfare state targeted at helping the needy.

"The most astonishing thing is the ideological difference. In Germany it was the Nazis and in Scandinavia it was the welfare states that showed the most willingness to cleanse themselves of 'racially' or 'socially inferior' types, Zaremba wrote.

Kaunda: President tried to kill me

By RICHARD MEARES

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — Zambia's former president Kenneth Kaunda said yesterday his successor was trying to have him killed when police shot and wounded him over the weekend.

The 73-year-old "father of the nation," who led Zambia from independence in 1964 until 1991, accused riot police, sent out in force, of using tear gas to break up a peaceful opposition gathering and opening fire on his car as he tried to flee.

Kaunda said a bullet whizzed over him, grazing the top of his head, while another bullet hit his passenger Roger Chongwe, leader of an allied opposition party, in the face, badly wounding him. But Chongwe had also now left hospital after surgery.

No official version of the incident on Saturday in the central Zambian town of Kabwe was immediately available, but Kaunda said his foe, President Frederick Chiluba, was behind it.

"It was an assassination attempt. There is no doubt in my mind about that," he told Reuters in a telephone interview, after returning to his home in the capital Lusaka overnight.

"Chiluba is trying to sort us out. They realize we had gained a lot of support through a series of recent rallies. They were all peaceful until the police turned up," he said.

Kaunda also said he believed that the orders for police to use live ammunition — for the first time in several years of opposition protest at Chiluba's rule — had come straight from the president, who is away on a visit to Indonesia.

Animosity between Zambia's two post-independence leaders grew when Chiluba, elected on a pro-democracy platform in 1991's all-party elections, changed the law ahead of last year's poll to stop Kaunda standing because his parents were not

Zambian.

Kaunda's United National Independence Party has since led an opposition boycott and has pursued a campaign of civil disobedience against the government of Chiluba's Movement for Multiparty Democracy.

Police clashed with market stall holders in Lusaka earlier this month in riots the authorities blamed on Kaunda.

The veteran African leader, during whose rule the economy of the copper-rich former British colony of Northern Rhodesia crumbled and foreign debt spiraled, said he still preferred peaceful protest, if possible.

"It's up to them [the state] if they want to provoke people. We are still exercising the power of peaceful demonstrations to all our followers," he said.

There were no reports of demonstrations or violence yesterday, which Kaunda said he would spend with supporters to work out their next move. "I cannot give up my fight for the rights of the Zambian people," he said.

UNIP, whose level of support is hard to gauge, demands the striking of the law barring Kaunda from standing for president, fresh elections and an end to what it says is government control of the media and judiciary.

So far its protests have fallen on deaf ears and even foreign aid donors, who cut off aid to Zambia in protest at Chiluba's electoral moves, said last month they would resume balance of payments support to ease the debt interest burden.

Finance Minister Ronald Penza said the World Bank had released \$70 million in support this month.

Kaunda urged donors to rethink after Saturday's incident.

Britain: Montserrat islanders playing political games amid volcano

By DAVID LJUNGGREN

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain's minister for international development stepped up her attacks on Montserrat leaders yesterday, accusing them of deliberately misrepresenting what London was doing to help their volcano-ravaged Caribbean island.

International Development Secretary Clare Short, who earlier accused the leaders of "hysterical scaremongering," said they were using an escalating row over British help for the island as a smoke screen for their own political infighting.

"We have a very serious problem which has only blown up over the last week or so because of faction-fighting in the government of Montserrat [so] that the people of Montserrat have been misled

about what is available to them," she told BBC radio.

Britain decided last week to organize a partial voluntary evacuation after scientists said a cataclysmic eruption could not be ruled out.

The government offered £2,500 (\$4,020) per adult to help Montserratians relocate to Britain or elsewhere in the Caribbean but David Brandt, the island's new chief minister, said this was not enough.

Brandt — an outspoken lawyer — replaced Scardina Osborne, who resigned abruptly on Thursday amid criticism of his handling of the crisis.

"We've had a political battle inside the government of Montserrat and the replacement of the chief minister," Short said. "Part of that process has been

complaining and misrepresenting about what Britain has been doing and offering in order for one chief minister to be replaced and another to take over."

Short, speaking to the *Observer* newspaper, accused the island's government of talking "mad money" in its requests for more help, saying the cash on offer represented six months' average wages on the island.

Montserrat had asked Britain to offer heads of household about \$14,800 and dependent children \$7,400.

"They say 10,000, double, triple, then think of another number. It will be golden elephants next. They have got to stop this game. It is bad governance. It's hysterical scaremongering which is whipping people up," the newspaper quoted Short as saying.

Short told the BBC that the *Observer* had misrepresented her comments but the depth of her rant became clear when she was asked whether she should not go to the island for talks.

"No, I don't think it would be helpful for me to go and I can't anyway, I have got [other] commitments," she said dismissively.

Short told the *Observer* she was so angered by the attitude of the island's leaders that her junior minister might cancel a planned visit to Montserrat this week.

"If they play these silly political games there will be no point in holding talks," she said.

Short said Britain had already given £40 million in aid to Montserrat over the past two years and a further £10.5m. pounds had been set aside for the voluntary evacuation package.

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Verdi in Verona

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

When Zubin Mehta lifts his baton tonight (9) and leads the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in the first bars of Verdi's *Requiem* at the Arena di Verona, the most famous outdoor opera locale in the world, he will make double history. It will be the first time that both Mehta and the IPO appear at this prestigious locale, where 15,000 eager spectators gather nightly during July and August to enjoy outdoor opera at its grandest and very best.

Tonight's concert at the arena celebrates the 50th anniversary of Maria Callas in Verona. Earlier in the summer, the Veronese were more than excited about the upcoming event, announcing it over the arena's loudspeaker system in four languages several times a night. But tonight's performance, which promises to be an uplifting and emotional event, is far from Verona's regular operatic fare. That is something quite different.

This summer season in Verona comprised two of the arena's all-time hits, *Carmen* and *Aida*, a regular crowd-pleaser — *Rigoletto*, and two new productions — *Madama Butterfly* and *Macbeth*.

The latter was the most captivating and intriguing of them all, yet it failed to attract the masses.

Why? Probably because the thousands of tourists who flock to the arena night after night prefer the spectacles the arena is known for.

The Zeffirelli production of *Carmen*, for example, or the recreation of the 1913 production of Verdi's *Aida*, which opened the arena. Both these productions are larger than life, with numerous extras, huge choruses, and massive scenery.

But opera is not only about spectacle. It is also about singing and dramatic integrity. Verona is known to offer great operatic singing, but nowadays what you get is as random as Russian roulette.

Some nights you might encounter the best singers in the world. On other occasions, the level might be quite abysmal. The *Aida* was the latter. Only Daniela Dessi in the lead managed to project her instrument in style.

The others, from Lando Bartolini (Radames) and Bruna Baglioni (Amneris) to Bonaldo Giolitti (Ramfis) and Bruno Pola (Amonasro) were more than disappointing, to say the least, and so it was left to Verdi magician Nello Santi in the pit to create some musical splendor, but that was not enough — far from it.

The singing in *Carmen* was not much better. Lucio Gallo (Escamillo) was inaudible, Keith Olsen (Jose) was not exactly exciting, and Carolyn Sebron in the lead was merely adequate. The only ray of sun came with Cecilia Gasdia's

Micaela, her pure soprano rising effortlessly through the immense space and reaching directly to our hearts. This time, though, the maestro in the pit, Angelo Campori, was rather pedestrian and the orchestra hardly audible.

The crowds in Verona are very accommodating. They cheer throughout, at times more than is actually necessary; they enjoy every minute of the spectacle, and they also show their appreciation by lighting heart- and star-shaped lanterns, which can be bought at the entrance. Some wear their Sunday best while others come in sandals and shorts. There is no dress code in Verona. The only rule is to have a great time under the stars and hopefully with the greatest opera stars around.

Verdi's *Macbeth* was a totally different matter. Here, Pier Luigi Pizzi created a powerful and imaginative new production which fits the huge space yet speaks in modern terms.

His sets of large steel watchtowers ascending and descending in a striking visual concoction was more than spectacular. It suggested that indeed there are new ways to work in this almost improbable space, and the scenery was also in tune with the protagonists of the piece — the Scottish nobleman and his fiendish wife who kill at will to maintain power.

Maria Guleghina and Juan Pons as the Macbeths were superb, keeping the production lively from beginning to end, and the chorus was extraordinary. The ballet featured prima ballerina Carla Fracci in a spectacular solo.

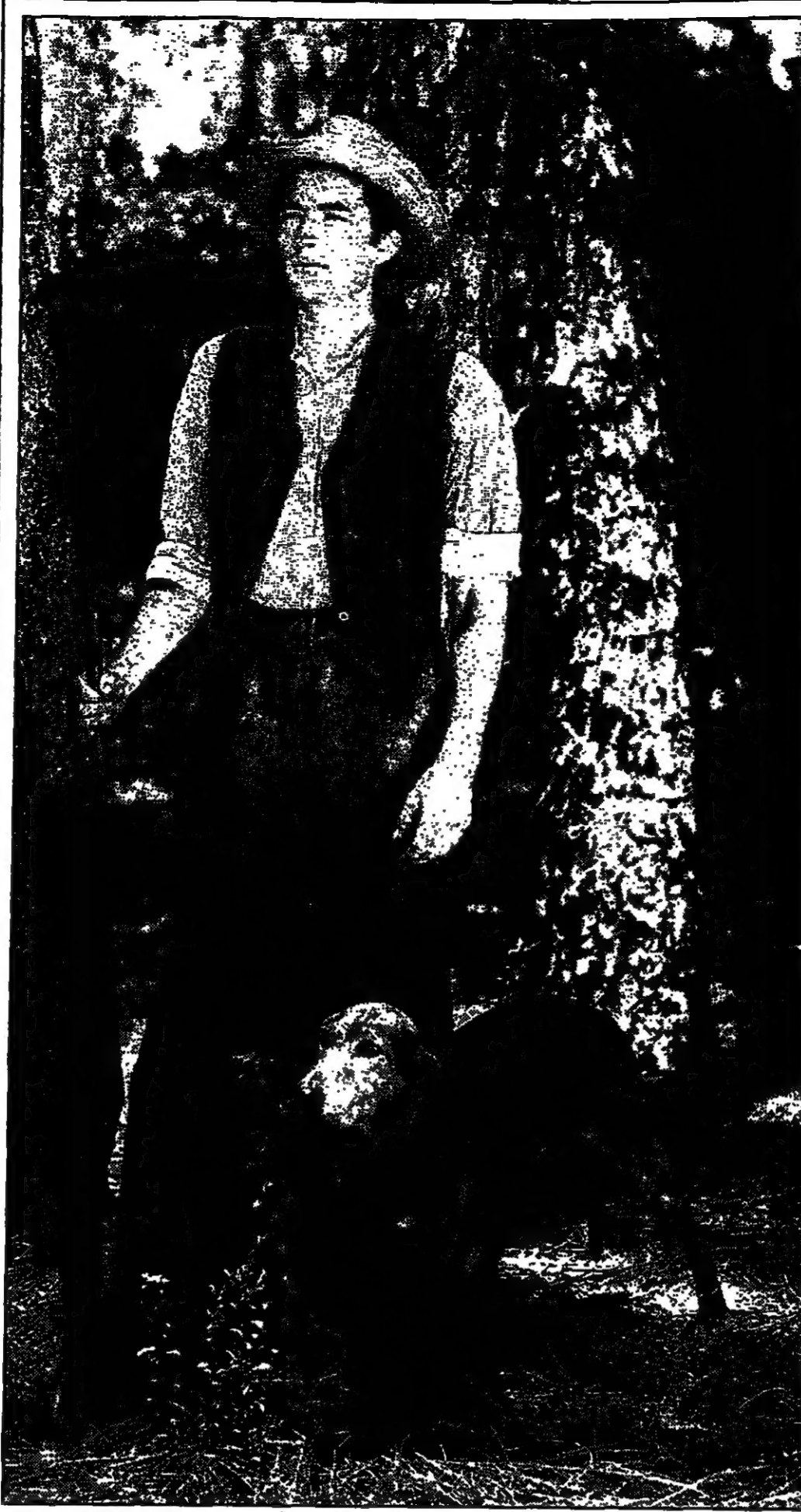
Verdi's *Rigoletto*, starring Leo Nucci, was a tear-jerking experience. Nucci is the quintessential Rigoletto.

His portrayal captures all the nuances of the role from jesting clown to worrying father from love to hate and despair. Lotfi Mansouri's lavish production is a traditional gem, and the cast around Nucci was first class, including Franco De Grandis as towering Sparafucile, Antonella Trevisan as seductive Maddalena, and last-minute debutante Sung-Eun Kim's most touching and vocally pure Gilda. Again, Santi was a wizard in the pit.

Bottom line: If you plan a trip to Verona, try to avoid the big spectacles and concentrate on the pure artistic productions — that is where Verona's magic is at its very best.

Last performances this summer are of *Macbeth* (tomorrow), *Rigoletto* (August 27, 30), *Aida* (August 28, 31) and *Madama Butterfly* (August 29).

Tickets are already on sale for next year's festival (June 26-August 30, 1998) featuring, aside from the obvious *Aida*, new productions of *Un ballo in maschera* and *Tosca*, as well as revivals of *Rigoletto* and *Nabucco*. To order tickets for good seats, call well in advance: 00-39-45-8005151.



Gregory Peck slams Hollywood

Huge corporations are destroying the cinema as an art form, and quirky Australian films are proof that 'formula films' aren't necessarily the best, veteran actor Gregory Peck said last week. "The technology is terrific and the effects are terrific, but there's something missing in the human element — I think it's rather tiresome," Peck (seen above in the 1946 movie *The Yearling*) said.

At a news conference, where he is filming the TV miniseries *Moby Dick*, Peck was contemptuous of what he called "formula films" of modern Hollywood.

"It's been discovered that a certain kind of film can be exported worldwide and can bring in enormous amounts of money," he said. "When you have a giant conglomerate behind a movie, the fellows at the top are not really terribly concerned about the artistic element, they're concerned about the bottom line. It's commerce for them — gratuitous violence just for the sake of titillating an audience — I don't approve of it."

Naming *Babe* as the last film that sent him out of a cinema happy, he said Australian films like *Muriel's Wedding*, *Priscilla-Queen of the Desert*, *Breaker Morant* and *Dead Calm* were proving that films did not need to fit the corporate formula to be successful.

"You make a contact: there is a human relationship between you and the filmmaker ... you walk out feeling you've had an experience," he said.

"The film *Babe* defines the word 'charm'; absolutely charming and amusing despite the fact that the leading character was a pig." (AP)

NEWS

of the muse

Inbal Dance to perform in Uzbekistan

The Inbal Dance Theater will perform at the UNESCO-sponsored International Folklore Festival at fabled Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in the coming weeks. Leah Avraham, one of Inbal's founding members, will sing the songs of Yemenite Jewry, and eight of the company's dancers will perform dances by artistic director Ilana Cohen. The dances, which draw their inspiration from Inbal founder Sara Levi Tanai, include *Women*, *Vell* and *Shabbat Shalom*. Helen Kaye

Tops in Israeli pops

ACUM (The Israeli Association of Musicians and Publishers) has released the top 10 pop songs of 1996 broadcast over Israel and Army Radios. The first three are "Kiss Me" (*Nashiki Oni*) performed by Sivan Shavit on Army Radio, and Shlomo Artzi's "Two" (*Shnayim*) and "Seasons" (*Onot*) by Aviv Gefen on Israel Radio. "Kiss Me" was No. 3 on Israel Radio, with Yehuda Poliker's "Don't Know" (*Lo Yoden*) logging in at Nos. 3 and 4 on Army and Israel Radio, respectively. Helen Kaye

Haifa Children's Theater Fest seeks plays

Local playwrights have until September 30 to submit an original play to open the eighth CTF on April 12. It will be a joint Haifa Theater/Festival production and is scheduled for the main stage as part of the Festival's salute to Israel's 50th birthday. CTF is also soliciting plays for the annual competition for Best Play, and six will be chosen from those submitted. The deadline for competition plays is October 31. Plays should be no more than an hour long. The material, in Hebrew, should be sent to: The Haifa CTF Office, 6 Tiomkin St., Tel Aviv 65783, or the Haifa Theater, 50 Pevsner St., Haifa 33134. Helen Kaye

Still no head for Haifa Theater

No replacement has yet been chosen for Haifa Theater general manager Oded Kotler, who resigned in May after six years on the job. Names that have come up as front runners are actor Doron Tavori and director/playwright Sinai Peter. Director Roni Pinkowitz is also being considered.

The search committee, headed by HT board chairman Zvi Dahari, is expected to meet at the end of the month. "I hope they make a decision soon," said Kotler, who is still running the theater in accordance with the agreement made in May but had expected to bow out before the September 30 deadline. Kotler will freelance and is "happy, thrilled, and turned on. I have had several tempting offers but haven't yet made a decision."

Kotler's decision to resign was prompted, in part, by the relentless criticism directed at him for the theater's string of box-office failures, the most recent being *Angels in America*. Helen Kaye

Old Vic up for sale

London's venerable Old Vic Theatre is back on its feet and losing far less money than rumored, Canadian theater tycoon David Mirvish said last week.

Mirvish and his flamboyant father, "Honest Ed" Mirvish, are selling the Old Vic after rescuing the 179-year-old theater in 1982 and spending millions of dollars to restore it.

"The Vic is an extraordinary opportunity for somebody who has the time to devote to it," Mirvish said. But his family is focusing on its Canadian businesses and can no longer devote enough time to the Old Vic, he said. They have put an \$11.25 million (£7.5m.) price on the theater and nearby Annex. Mirvish said he would not sell it for redevelopment. Ed Mirvish paid \$825,000 (£550,000) for the theater 15 years ago and spent another \$3.75 million (£2.5 m.) to refurbish it. The Old Vic was built in 1816 and hosted Britain's best actors for generations before falling on hard times. (Reuters)

St. Petersburg honors Shostakovich

A bust of Dmitri Shostakovich that was suppressed by Soviet authorities in 1947 will be recast as a monument to the composer in his hometown of St. Petersburg.

The governor of St. Petersburg ordered the bronze bust to be placed in the courtyard of a building where Shostakovich lived before and during World War II. It was in this building at 29 Kronverkskaya St. that Shostakovich composed his Symphony No. 7, also known as the "Leningrad Symphony," as Nazi troops were closing their grip on the city in 1941.

Sculptor Alexander Chernitsky began creating a bust of the composer in 1947, shortly before Shostakovich was denounced by Soviet officials as an "anti-popular" composer. Chernitsky was advised to destroy the bust. "I did not do so," he told ITAR-Tass. "I cast the bust in bronze in the hope that better times would come and the truth would triumph."

The original bust is now on display at the Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, and Chernitsky has been asked to cast an enlarged copy for the memorial. Shostakovich died in 1975. (AP)

MOVIE REVIEW

Last of the English eccentrics

By ADINA HOFFMAN

British comic Rowan Atkinson has lopsided eyes, big flaps for ears, almost no chin, and a sharp beak of a nose that slopes to a perilous point.

His jaggedly disproportionate features seem expressly designed to help him make funny faces, and in *Bean*, the new film based on his popular TV character, he has ample opportunity to do just that. The movie opens with shots of Mr.

BEAN

★★★★

Directed by Mel Smith. Screenplay by Richard Curtis and Robin Swicord. Hebrew title: *Bean*. 90 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. General audiences.

With Rowan Atkinson, Peter MacNicol, Pamela Reed, Harris Yulin and Burt Reynolds

Bean shaving in front of the mirror: first he trims the stubble from his chin, then he moves on with the same untutored concentration to run his humming electric razor across his forehead, his nose and finally — his tongue.

Bit for bit, *Bean* is constructed of some of the zaniest and most delightful physical comedy I've seen in a long time, although attempts to recount this humor in words ("and then he puts a turkey in the microwave...") are bound to come up short, reducing the quirky comic logic of Bean's bear-

ing to a laundry list of predictable and abrupt-sounding gags. Most of these routines, though, build gradually, ingeniously, through a carefully choreographed progression of riotous actions and reactions, often of Bean to himself.

Usually the sequence begins when he does something clumsy and accidental, intensifies as he attempts to fudge his way out of the mess, and climaxes as he turns the unfortunate proceedings to his own benefit in the form of perverse pleasure taken at the disaster he's wrought and yet managed — by a crazy combination of luck and idiot-savant know-how — to correct. His instincts are essentially those of a little kid who beams with pride at the artful sloop he's made of the food on his plate and only shows remorse when he gets caught and scolded.

A child psychologist could probably have a field day with Mr. Bean, a grown man who knows nothing at all about the rules of polite society and who wanders through the world in a narcissistic haze, inadvertently leveling almost everything in his path. He's a sort of tweedy English cross between Jacques Tati and Pee-wee Herman, and part of what's funny about him is the dichotomy between the proper way he looks and the outrageous way he acts.

His well-pressed trousers and sensible shoes give us no hint of the "true" Mr. Bean, whose verbal powers have been as slow to develop as his social skills.

In addition to his broad vocabulary of grunts, snorts, and growls,

he does speak a bit, although when he does the lines gurgle up from his throat in a way that is in itself funny — the sound, not the words, makes us laugh.

(I've never seen the TV show, but understand that Atkinson's performances there are both silent and solo, an innovative comedic throwback the filmmakers obviously thought they couldn't sustain throughout a full-length film. While their decision to send Bean out into the world was probably inevitable, I can't help but wonder what inarticulate marvels might have resulted if he'd remained without ordinary speech.)

Working together with the actor, writers Richard Curtis and Robin Swicord (both veterans of *Mr. Bean*) have concocted and fleshed out an appropriately daffy storyline, one that brings Bean into calamitous contact not just with ordinary, well-behaved people, but also with a foreign culture: Los Angeles, where the very British Mr. Bean seems even more profoundly out of place than usual. The choice of far-flung locale also allows director Mel Smith to indulge in a bit of gentle social satire alongside the broad slapstick. Both the Brits and Americans are treated to a good-natured skewering, with Bean embodying an over-the-top kind of nearly English eccentricity and the Los Angeles depicted as flashy smooth-talkers with a penchant for loud clothes and cars. Peter Larkin's hyperbolic production design in both locations is nearly as entertaining as the char-

acters.

At the start of the movie, Bean the inept security guard is sent by scholars at the Royal National Gallery to represent them at a Southern Californian unveiling of "Whistler's Mother," where the painting has been purchased by a wealthy general, played by Burt Reynolds. This transatlantic posting is not based on merit, of course, but on the urgent need felt by the English to get Bean out of their hair.

When he arrives in L.A. he wastes no time in making trouble and nearly destroying the lives of all those around him, in particular that of poor David Langley (Peter MacNicol), the boyish curator of the gallery where the portrait will be exhibited. Thinking his guest an important art historian, David

welcomes Bean into his home and soon finds that his wife (Pamela Reed) and children have left him and that his career is in serious jeopardy: needless to say, placing Bean on the same coast as a valuable art object is a recipe for disaster.

Much of the film's great charm, however, lies in seeing how Bean rescues himself — and everyone else, including Mrs. Whistler — from the near-catastrophe he has unleashed. Despite his knack for creating chaos, Bean basically means well and strains to learn from his mistakes. It's hard to imagine that someone this crude, maladroit, and basically selfish could be so lovable. But he is, and by the end he becomes something of a hero — albeit a hero with a twist.

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Barak misfires

No one doubts the military prowess of Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak, which makes it all the more surprising to see him shoot himself directly in the foot.

Though the decision to fire half the employees at the Labor Party headquarters may have been fiscally warranted, the crass manner in which it was carried out — and the later, humiliating withdrawal — most resembles a botched military operation.

The dismissals were carried out Thursday morning, when 35 employees found letters on their desks stating they were fired, effective immediately. The works committee representing the employees had not been consulted regarding who to fire, or how to address the party's NIS 85 million deficit. Nor, evidently, were other Labor MKs consulted, since none came out in Barak's defense.

Labor MK Eli Ben-Menahem perhaps reflected the view of many of his party colleagues when he told Barak, "If this is how you continue behaving, you have no hope of becoming prime minister." Another Labor MK, Eitan Cabel, charged that Barak regarded the party he leads as "a liability."

To add to the would-be premier's poor PR, a number of the fired workers barricaded themselves in the party headquarters over the weekend and yesterday the Histadrut fought Barak's action in Tel Aviv Labor Court. Though the MKs Barak gathered after the fact for consultations tepidly backed the principle of cutbacks, they also pointedly failed to support Barak's operational decision.

Even if political and moral considerations are left aside, it is hard to imagine how Barak could have thought that firing veteran workers without due notice would pass legal muster. Perhaps he did not care, adding a cavalier attitude toward the law to the obvious insensitivity he displayed.

Perhaps when Barak speaks of the "new" Labor Party, he is referring to a party that not only does not care about workers in general, but does not even believe in treating its own workers decently.

Much has been made within Likud circles about how Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in his meteoric rise to power, ran

roughshod over the party apparatus and sacrificed the party's interests to promote his own. If Netanyahu's party ties seem to be tenuous, Barak's seem to be almost non-existent.

Barak went straight from being IDF chief of staff to becoming a minister in the government of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, without ever running for election or even serving as a political appointee. The Labor Party, in welcoming a military leader who could boost its pro-security credentials and allow it to piggyback on the apolitical popularity that generals can garner, is now finding that Barak is apolitical to a fault.

Barak's lack of party loyalty, though bad for the Labor Party, may not hurt him in elections, or affect his ability to govern. But what is disturbing about this incident is what it says of Barak's ability to manage even a small organization like the Labor Party, when he is seeking to run the entire country.

Barak has been rightly critical of the way Netanyahu has unnecessarily alienated both much of his own cabinet and the Arab leaders who play pivotal roles in the peace process. Though Netanyahu claims that his troubles are derived from his being a tougher negotiator, he has not veered as much from the previous government's path as he would have the public believe. Even if the limited change in course is accounted for, there is little doubt that Netanyahu's tendency to rely upon raw political power rather than his considerable powers of persuasion has contributed to his political — and to Israel's international — isolation.

Barak, while presenting no grandly distinctive policies, has promised a different style from the current government. If Barak were to capture this difference in a slogan, it might be a promise to not just be right, but to act smart.

The most damaging result of this imbroglio, coupled with the fact that months after his election as party leader he continues to maintain a completely separate personal organization outside the party apparatus, is that it indicates that Barak's people and management skills offer no improvement over Netanyahu's.

Barak had better heed the warnings of his party colleagues: the combination of imperial tendencies and bad judgment is hardly a recipe for victory.

Assimilate

YOSEF GOELL

It is extremely rare for a columnist engaged in pontificating — as is our wont — to have his warnings corroborated within days by solid statistical findings.

Last Monday, in criticizing the delegation of Israeli Arab political and intellectual leaders which visited Damascus, I wrote that "the greatest problem facing (the Israeli Arab minority)... has been to win the trust of Israel's ruling Jewish

majority. A majority of 51.6 percent were in favor of transferring the Israeli Arab population to a Palestinian state if and when such a state arose.

I consider myself relatively well informed in this area but I never suspected that things were this bad.

THE issue of denying Arab citizens the vote on various issues connected with the Arab-Israeli conflict has been in contention over the past few years — ever since it became clear that regardless of whether the Likud or Labor were in power, issues connected to the Arab-Israeli conflict would be determined by how two very homogeneous minorities: the haredim and the Arabs, voted in national elections.

The issue became even more aggravated with the introduction last year of direct popular elections of the prime minister. I wrote last week that the degree of distrust among the Jewish majority is perhaps the major problem confronting Israel's Arabs. It is also a very serious problem for the Jewish majority.

Assimilation of the Arab minority into all walks of life would be best for a healthy and vibrant Jewish Israel

The Arabs constitute close to 20 percent of Israel's population. Burying one's head in the sand and doing nothing about the festering dissatisfaction of such a large chunk of the population — whose political and intellectual leadership has the incendiary penchant for identifying itself publicly with the country's Arab enemies — is a sure-fire formula for dire trouble. (In fact, the problem of the magnitude of basically disaffected population segments is already more serious than that 20 percent, for to the Arabs, most of whom oppose defining Israel as a Jewish state, one should add the 10 percent plus of the haredim, who are opposed in principle to the state's democratic and Zionist nature.)

The desire of a slight majority of Israeli Jews to transfer Israeli Arabs to a Palestinian state, as expressed in the poll, is the sort of basically evil but totally unrealistic wishful thinking akin to the expectations among many haredim and

dogmatic secular Israelis that the opposing Jewish camp will somehow disappear into the dustbin of history.

The logical alternative to such "transferrist" thinking is the fostering of as rapid assimilation of as many Israeli Arabs as possible — and especially their elites — into mainstream Israel. Admittedly this flies in the face of two thousand years of Jewish experience and ideology. For a small Jewish minority, scattered in many Diasporas, the very word "assimilation" was correctly seen as a threat to continued Jewish existence. The same is true today in regard to US Jewry.

But in a Jewish Israel an opposing logic should hold sway. Assimilation of a potentially threatening Arab minority into all walks of life in the Jewish state would be the best thing possible for the survival of a healthy and vibrant Jewish Israel.

Our more ancient forefathers

knew this, from the rapid assimilation of the "erev rav" multitude who left Egyptian bondage together with the Israelite tribes, through the reality described in the books of Judges, Samuel, Kings and Ruth, to the forcible conversion of conquered peoples under kings Yehoshafat and Herod.

In our first five decades we have expended much energy focusing on the threats entailed in the ethnic divisions among Israeli Jews. In the next few years we will be swamped with various aspects of the mounting haredi-secular confrontation.

But the threats entailed in a failure to address and improve Jewish-Arab relations in Israel will be of even greater consequence. The initiative must come from the Jewish majority and an appropriate response from the Arab minority.

The writer comments on public affairs.

What makes a synagogue beautiful?

AVI WEISS

is built with ramps." I responded defensively, "except for the sanctuary. Besides, the Torah table is only a few inches off the floor. I could have lifted you up."

This was an idea that Danny rejected emphatically. He felt that ascending to the Torah meant doing so with the fullest measure of dignity and honor that one could achieve. It was then that Danny taught me something I'll never forget.

The first thing I look for are ramps. If the synagogue is accessible, it is beautiful

get. "No, Avi," he said, "when I come to the Torah, I'll come on my own or I won't come at all."

I realized then, that as open and welcome as we had tried to make our synagogue, Danny was locked out. Clearly, our congregation had the duty to include everyone by extending the system of ramps right up to the ark and the Torah table. Never mind that the ramps were expensive and would consume space for about 30 seats that we could easily fill on a crowded Shabbat or on the High Holidays; the ramps had to be built.

Once finished, something amazing happened. More people in wheelchairs began coming. And when Danny finally came up to the Torah there were tears of joy everywhere. We were the ones who had gained more from his wisdom than we could ever repay.

When we discussed the matter later, Danny pointed out that there was no way for him to get up the three steps to the Torah table in his wheelchair. "The whole synagogue

FOR me, Danny's insistence upon equal access was a defining moment in my understanding of the nature of true activism. It reaffirmed what I had sensed for a long time but had now been taught so powerfully — that activism consists of far more than such familiar public dimensions as demonstrating and speaking out.

Activism is much deeper. It is any positive action that benefits the

ful? As for me, the first thing I look for are ramps. If the synagogue is accessible, it is beautiful.

To those who disagree, who feel themselves far removed from the issue and believe it has nothing to do with them, let it be said that none of us is immune from the misfortunes that befall others. There is no such thing as the sick and the well; there are only the sick and the not yet sick.

The need for accessibility should be especially considered by synagogues in which women can only sit in the balcony and this need should also resonate with particular force in Israel where so many soldiers wounded in defense of the state are in wheelchairs. Ironically, in Israel even more than in the United States, synagogues and sanctuaries are characteristically built with a profusion of steps and high podiums, without ramps and lacking any means of rendering them accessible.

A photograph in my office says it all. It is of a man sitting in his wheelchair at the bottom of a flight of steps leading up to the entrance of a synagogue. Over its grand doors is emblazoned the sentence: "Open the gates of righteousness for me, I will enter through them."

The man sits with his back to the doors. He is unable to enter. He has failed him. Our task is to make sure that he can face the door and to welcome him as he makes his way in on his own. As Danny Heumann has taught us, only when he can do it on his own, will he be free.

The writer is a New York rabbi and activist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEFENDERS OF THE KOTEL

Sir, — Jonathan Rosenblum shows a remarkable lack of empathy for those wishing to pray at the Kotel, unless they meet his religious criteria (August 15). Clearly, women do not. He seems to be accusing women's prayer groups of some underlying evil conspiracy designed to malign him and the entire Orthodox (haredi?) movement. His analogy of women's groups at the Kotel to the Bundists standing outside a synagogue on Yom Kippur eating ham was unsurpassed in its offensiveness.

As an Orthodox woman who has participated in women's minyanim, I can attest to the fact that all most women's groups want is the opportunity to express themselves in prayer at the most holy site available to Jews, in the same way as the individuals Rosenblum himself mentions. If the Yale student and the backpacker so benefitted from their experience at the Kotel, just think of how a group of women might feel if allowed to express their religious feelings in the same way.

I wonder how many Rosenblums actually participated in the liberation of the Kotel during the Six Day War, and how many continue to defend it in uniform today. Perhaps the only way Rosenblum sees fit to defend the Wall is by vilifying women, while others, such as my own daughters, actively defend the Kotel and our entire country by serving in the IDF.

JUDITH A. SCHMELL

CONTEMPTIBLE

Sir, — The column by Amotz Asa-El, "Battling for sanity" (August 1), was contemptible. To write about an honest, concerned Jew in the same sentences as "Moslem zealots in Teheran" and "terrorists" is to equate one with the other. To intertwine the Mahaneh Yehuda campaign with land legally bought for housing in the Ras al-Amud quarter of Jerusalem is an affront and outrage to the memory of those who were being buried even as Asa-El's column was being read. Those are vile, horrendous and obnoxious comparisons.

It is the "zealots of Teheran" who fund the terrorists who murder our neighbors and blow up our children, who splatter our blood on the streets and who are hell-

bent on destroying every Jew, wherever he or she may be. They are the enemy and let none of us forget it. It is the "Jewish zealots in Miami" (among others) who realize their desire to benefit the people, land and State of Israel by funding housing projects and Project Renewal developments.

Shame on you, Asa-El, for having the audacity to equate "terrorists and Moskowitizes"; you are the archetype Jew self-hater. Shame on The Jerusalem Post for having Asa-El's columns defile your respected masthead.

RABBI LEVI YITZHAK HOROWITZ
The Bostoner Rebbe

Jerusalem.

HOLOCAUST FUNDS

Sir, — Arnold Kisch ("The gold rush," July 23) does not state whether he himself is a Holocaust survivor. But since he is described as "a Jerusalem-based physician," it seems fair to assume that he is not in financial need. That being the case, he is hardly an appropriate person to argue that it would be better to "leave the wounds open" (this is doubly ironic stemming from a physician).

Of course the distribution of funds can be misused and can lead to wrong attitudes in the end. But rather than criticize the whole effort, let us pray that it will be done with wisdom and a desire for the greatest possible fairness.

SUSAN WIESMANN

WOMEN'S COUNSELING

Sir, — I was very pleased to read the excellent description of important work being done by the Counseling Center for Women in Israel (July 9).

I would like to add a few points that weren't specified in the article. The Counseling Center is a non-profit, unaffiliated organization working with women from all sectors of society. The center has a sliding scale so that services can be available to as many women as possible.

The center can be reached in Jerusalem at (02) 672-5494, and in Ramat Gan (serving the entire Tel Aviv area) at 03-673-9006.

JUDY FEIERSTEIN
CCW Board Member

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On August 25, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that the three British "floating cages" carrying 4,400 detained "illegal" immigrants to Palestine were steaming towards Gibraltar. Special fasting and prayers were held as a token of solidarity by the Yishuv and Jews all over the world. There were 285 Jewish detainees from Palestine at the Gilgil British Detention Camp in Kenya. Most of them had been detained for from three to four

years, but one had been in detention eight years.

Former magistrate Bernard Rosenblatt petitioned the US State Department to refer to the International Court of Justice his attempt to purchase four acres of land near Haifa which the Mandatory Government refused to legalize because the land was within the section where according to the 1939 White Paper no land sales to Jews could be effected.

25 years ago: On August 25, 1972, The Jerusalem Post reported that according to Soviet military analysts Egypt must put off anti-Israeli war for 18 months.

Prime Minister Golda Meir said that Israel would never accept peace at the price of its security. Great Britain announced that it was ready to sell Chieftain tanks to Libya.

Alexander Zvielli

Names are addictive

SANDY MCINTOSH

Man, confidently loping his way through inner-city haunts of the urban metropolis (both slated for retirement in anticipation of the pact between cigarette manufacturers and the government).

But few have been concerned about the power cigarette names themselves exert.

For instance, the name "Marlboro" (as in the Duke of

that create images of pleasure to others that suck the wind right out of their sails.

The trick to doing this is to avoid christening cigarettes with names that, while they might seem to an adult as chastening as a skull-and-crossbones on a cigarette pack, would instead telegraph instant romantic appeal to rebellious teen-aged smokers —

Would Marlboro have attained its great success if, instead of being called 'Marlboro' it was called 'Failure' or 'Loser'?

Marlborough) suggests royalty, something we'd all like to be. But would Marlboro have attained its great success, even with its cowboy hero, if, instead of being called "Marlboro" it was called — say, "Failure," or "Loser"? Failure: the absence of success. Loser: someone going nowhere, getting nothing. Who'd want to take on those? And herein may lie the key to turning kids off smoking. If we only had the power to change the names of cigarettes from those

like a skull-and-crossbones. There are other approaches to creating cigarette brand names designed to de-activate the smoking impulse in kids. Advertising copywriters appeal to our sense of taste and ability to remember certain names. The favorite smoke of young soldiers in World War I, Sweet Caporal, prospered because the word "sweet" appeals directly to the taste buds. A chewing tobacco called Skol (meaning, ironically, "to your health") is a

big success with kids in the South. Try calling it "Phlegm" and see how many stick that between cheek and jaw. And as for name recognition, try to remember "Xpldkrqvxtzzxw" brand cigarettes. Tell the kids to be sure to ask for them by name.

Of course, this is fantasy. Attempting to force cigarette makers to give up their winning brand names in favor of deadening substitutes would probably provoke First Amendment challenges by manufacturers, billboard companies and magazines, which could lose ad revenue.

But if we can't do that, at least let's reward the old warning labels on cigarette packs. "Cigarette Smoking Causes Cancer and Emphysema" means little to teenagers convinced of their good health and immortality. Perhaps we should insert the claim "Cigarette Smoking Causes Acne." For all we know, it may be true. And this might bring a fitting end to the cigarette industry: Can you imagine the devastation to be wreaked by millions of pimply, hormone-oozing teenagers smiling tobacco giants with class-action lawsuits?

© Newsday

By Ion Pareles

The Nation

Defining Disadvantage Up to Preserve Preferences

By STEVEN A. HOLMES

WASHINGTON

WHAT'S left? That's the question that follows the Clinton Administration's recent announcement that it is considering a proposal to make it easier for whites to qualify for contracting preferences that had been reserved almost exclusively for racial and ethnic minorities. The proposal is part of a trend in which supporters of affirmative action seeking to widen the policy's political base, pushed by a 1995 Supreme Court ruling that made it difficult to operate programs based solely on race, have steadily broadened the definition of oppressed groups whose members qualify for special help.

Conceived as a policy to help blacks, many affirmative action programs have, over the years, been stretched to cover Hispanic people, Asians, Native Americans, Hawaiian Polynesians and women of any color or creed. Now, the Administration is contemplating rule changes that would open the affirmative action door to more whites, including white men.

While arguably legally necessary, the proposed change raises a number of uncomfortable questions. At what point have the benefits of affirmative action been scattered so broadly that they actually diminish rather than enhance opportunities for blacks, the group the policy was originally designed for? What is the justification for recent immigrants, who came to the United States voluntarily and may or may not have suffered

from discrimination, to share the fruits of a policy meant to help the descendants of slaves who were forcibly brought here? At what point does "socially disadvantaged" become defined so broadly that the only ones not included are Donald Trump and Bill Gates?

"We have reached the point where Hasidic Jews are eligible, immigrants from India are eligible, white women are eligible," said Gerald Reynolds, president of the Center for New Black Leadership and a fervent opponent of affirmative action for anyone. "We've gone so far from the original idea that I believe it's time to reassess the whole approach."

A Different Purpose

As the beneficiaries of affirmative action have increased, its moral rationale has changed. Supporters now speak as much of achieving diversity in a work force or on a college campus as they do of making up for past racism or preventing current discrimination. But while diversity may be a noble goal, it does not necessarily mesh with the original idea of affirmative action: helping to overcome the vestiges of slavery and Jim Crow.

"The concern that I have about the rhetoric of diversity is that it doesn't have any moral bite to it," said Glen C. Loury, a professor of economics at Boston University. "You end up with a kind of touchy-feely policy where you've lost the thread of why you were looking to treat people specially in the first place."

The latest step in the trend toward affirmative action catholicism came Aug. 14, when the Small Business Administration proposed changes in requirements for companies to qualify as "small disadvantaged" busi-

Yes, you can have \$250,000 and still be considered economically handicapped.

nesses. The new rules would cover companies that want to be enrolled in special programs that provide technical help and eligibility for certain Federal contracts set aside for them. The rules also cover companies that, if signed up as subcontractors, give larger prime contractors bonus points when they bid on Federal contracts.

Under the proposal, the owner of a small company would be considered economically disadvantaged if he or she had a personal net worth of less than \$250,000, excluding equity in a home — a criterion that more than 90 percent of Americans could meet. Applicants would also have to show that they were socially disadvantaged, meaning that they have been the victims of some kind of chronic discrimination. Blacks, Hispanic people, Asians and members of other racial minorities are presumed to meet this criterion, while whites, both men and women, would have to make a showing of past bias.

While the proposed new rules would make it generally easier for whites to make a case, Federal officials say white men will still have difficulty establishing that they have suffered from discrimination. "This is not opening the floodgates for people who might not qualify," said Aida Alvarez, the S.B.A. administrator.

Perhaps not yet. But the Federal courts could very well toss some banana peels on what is already a slippery slope. Last month, Federal District Judge John L. Kane Jr. in Denver ruled that the white owner of a construction company had been the victim of bias — and therefore was socially disadvantaged — because he lost out on a government contract as a result of an affirmative action program that the Supreme Court later ruled unconstitutional. The ruling is not binding beyond Colorado, but it lays down a new legal principle: whites who could prove they have been unfairly treated by affirmative action programs would be eligible to apply for affirmative action programs.

"Judge Kane's ruling draws a circle around this program and puts everyone inside," said William Perry Pendley, the Denver lawyer who represented the white contractor.

The question of widening eligibility is vexing to black supporters of affirmative action. More beneficiaries could mean more support for a policy that is under growing attack in the courts and in the political arena. But more beneficiaries also means diluted benefits. In 1987, when they were first included in a Department of Transportation program that set aside contracts for "disadvantaged" businesses, companies owned by women earned 20.4 percent of dollars in the program. By 1996, the percentage had climbed to 41.4 percent.

"That's why it's such a dilemma," said Anthony W. Robinson, president of the Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and Education Fund. "You do need that kind of political support to try to preserve the policy. But sometimes you wonder whether you're cutting your own throat at the same time."

So Let's Just Have Veggies

By TOM KUNTZ

DOES the picture at right evoke Norman Rockwell — or Alfred Hitchcock? The question seems a fair one in light of the scary news lately about food. Last week the meat processor Hudson Foods recalled 25 million pounds of possibly tainted ground beef and shut down the Nebraska plant that it came from, causing shortages at Burger King and Boston Market restaurants.

Only a handful of people have gotten sick from potentially deadly E. coli bacteria in the meat, but every year in the United States, bacteria in food kills thousands of people, mostly children and elderly people, and sickens millions.

So a practical question for the coming weekend is, what's a Labor Day chef to do?

Here's help from the United States Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service:

• You may think your wacky "Hot Stuff" apron is essential, but what about a meat thermometer? Yes, a meat thermometer. The U.S.D.A. says you should use one to make sure meat has been cooked enough to kill E. coli and other bacteria. Hamburgers should be cooked to 160 degrees; whole poultry and thighs to 180 degrees, breasts to 170 degrees. Steaks need only be cooked to 145 degrees and can be reddish inside since bacteria collects only on the outside of such cuts.

• Completely thaw meat and poultry before grill-

ing so that it cooks evenly.

• Keep cold foods cold (40 degrees or lower), and hot food hot (at least 140 degrees).

• Clean all work surfaces and utensils and your hands before and after preparing food.

• To prevent cross-contamination, make sure raw meat and poultry are separate from other foods. Never put cooked food on a platter that held raw meat.

• Shop with summer heat in mind: put meat in the shopping cart last, just before checkout. Meat should go in the car's air-conditioned interior — not the trunk — or in a cooler for trips of more than 30 minutes.

• Thoroughly wash fruits and vegetables to be eaten raw. No nibbling grapes from the grocery bag.

• Hold the carcinogens: Some studies suggest there is a cancer risk from grilling food at high heat. To avoid the hazardous chemicals formed by charring meat, grill at medium temperatures. Trim as much fat as possible to avoid grill flame-ups. Microwave pre-cooking helps drain off fat.

• As for dangers from the grill itself, the Barbecue Industry Association says pollution from charcoal units has been minimized with a reformulation of lighter fluid. Among its common-sense tips: set up the grill in an open area away from buildings. When lighting a liquid-propane grill, always keep the lid open to prevent an explosion from built-up gas. And as for that wacky apron, make sure its strings aren't hanging loose near the fire, or you really will be hot stuff.



Cold war fears overlooked the enemy in our backyards: undercooked burgers. A 50's barbecue.

Read Faster. Today, You're Already Another 166 Books Behind

Continued From Page 1

that time amounts to only eight hours a year.

So why then are publishers having such a difficult year selling books? Albert N. Greco, an associate business professor at Fordham University who has studied the consumer book market, says that a critical part of the answer is a simple issue of supply and demand.

"What I think you have is a tremendous amount of titles," he said. "There are too many titles being published and too many in the wrong market. You're looking at an aircraft carrier in the Atlantic Ocean and you can't turn that around on a dime. They have contracts for books that won't be delivered until the year 2000 and there is a massive commitment to books in the pipeline."

The tide of titles actually reached its crest

in 1995 with 62,039 new titles, a 20 percent increase from the year before, which was the highest output of American books since the Puritans brought the first press to the Massachusetts Bay colony in 1638.

Wrong Theme, Wrong Time

But this growth did not generate an increase in sales. It also didn't guarantee contracts and fat advances to every author seeking to write the great American novel; many were laboring over manuscripts lacking the popular appeal that publishers want.

"You picked the wrong theme in the wrong time," observed Mr. Greco of literary authors hoping to rise with the tide. "There's a very limited market for midlist authors and that limited market is not going to grow."

It was in the midst of this wave that Jonathan Karp, a senior editor at Random House, shared a lunch with a colleague from

One curator's advice: There are so many titles published that it is time to trim the list.

sales who idly mentioned a notion that would haunt the editor for days to come.

"You know," the salesman confided in Mr. Karp, "I'd be perfectly happy if we didn't publish any new novels for a year or two. Our books would sell a lot better if there were a moratorium on fiction."

That conversation prompted Mr. Karp to raise the issue at an editorial meeting with 15 colleagues. He wondered aloud if there was

any real demand for the novels that they publish. The first response was silence, he recalled in an article he wrote for a publishing journal. Then came the brave consensus: It's a publisher's job to build demand.

In the last few weeks — since canceling books and trimming its publishing list — HarperCollins has been making the case that it is going to build demand for its books by promoting and focusing on a smaller number of titles. "Everyone understands that there are signs of diminishing returns with an ever-increasing number of books," said Mr. Kiener, who estimated that his company's list of titles published annually will drop to 1,000 from 1,800.

The Yale Method

Perhaps publishers should seek some guidance from librarians and curators who have already faced the issue of book inflation

and finite shelf space.

Patricia C. Willis, the curator of the Yale Collection of American Literature in New Haven, subscribes to the "cone theory" — in which the book production expands outward in girth with more books published each year. As the cone widens, she said there is simply too much for her collection to absorb.

"There are so many being published that it is time to trim the list," said Ms. Willis, who described the Yale library as an "intelligent vacuum cleaner."

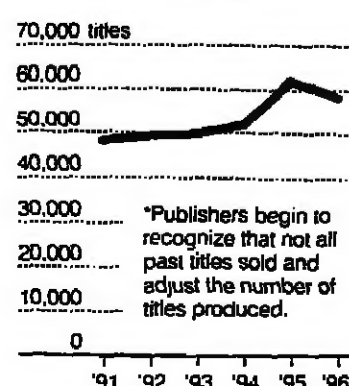
But unlike publishers, Ms. Willis is free to make her choices based on literary distinction. She follows no particular rule except she considers the staying power of contemporary authors and monitors whether rare book collectors consider the works valuable enough to keep for years to come.

Asked if Tom Clancy novels are stocked on her shelves, Ms. Willis swiftly replied, "I have Tom Wolfe, who is a graduate."

Too Many Books Published and Not Enough Readers

Publishers have been printing more books than people are actually buying. Some have begun to cut back. Here's a look at book title production, sales and use compared to other mass media.

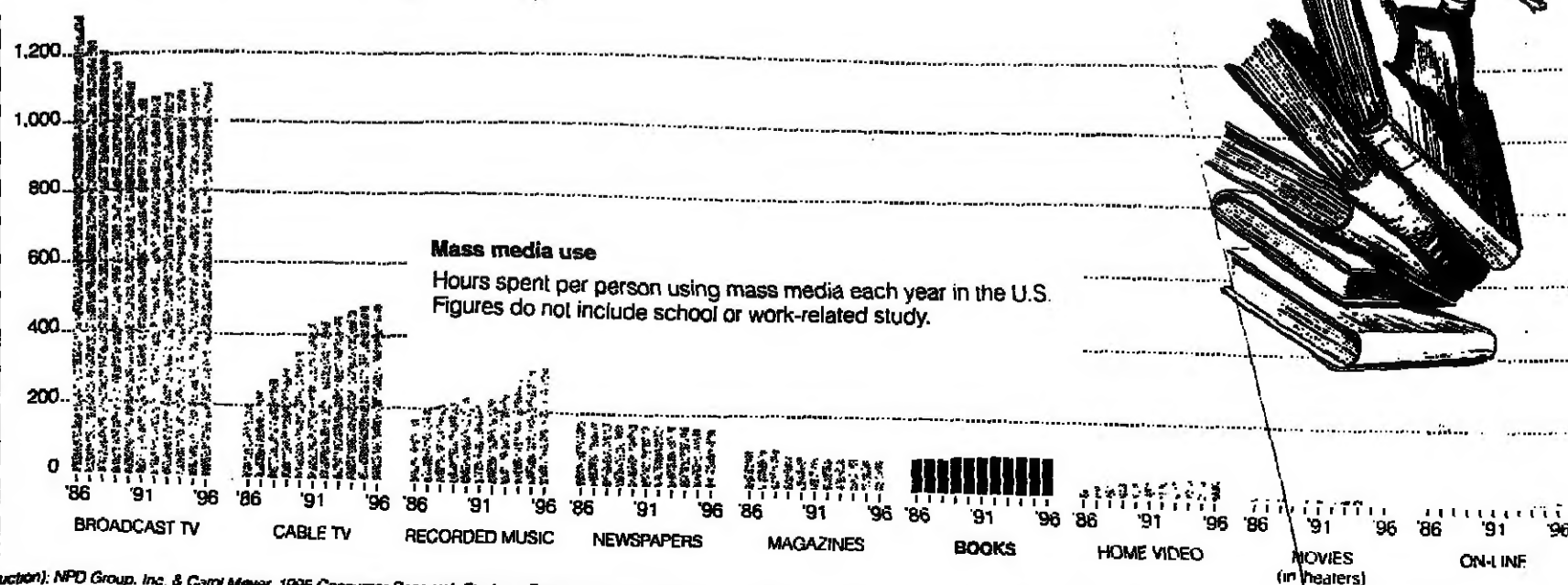
Book title production in the U.S.



*Publishers begin to recognize that not all past titles sold and adjust the number of titles produced.

Book purchases in 1995

CATEGORY	PERCENT PURCHASED
Popular fiction	50%
General nonfiction	9
Cooking/crafts	11
Psychology/recovery	6
Religion	7
Technology/science education	6
Art/literature/poetry	4
Reference	3
Other (includes cats)	3



Mass media use
Hours spent per person using mass media each year in the U.S.
Figures do not include school or work-related study.

Sources: Veronis, Suhler & Associates; Wilksky Gruen Associates; R.R. Bowker (book title production); NPD Group, Inc.; Carol Meyer, 1995 Consumer Research Study on Book Purchasing (1995 book purchases); U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the U.S. (mass media use)

Ideas & Trends

Powwows Change, but Drummer Is The Same

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES ESTRIN

By CAREY GOLDBERG

MONTVILLE, Conn.

INSIDE the tent, singers shrilled "oh yay oh" as grass dancers and jingle-dress dancers and tribal officials stamped and bobbed and stepped their way into the great circle. The air was suffused with sweet smoke and drum thunder and a sense of the sacred.

Outside the tent was an aura of another kind: frying buffalo burgers; caps boasting "I was cool before being Indian was cool"; \$25 dream catchers, the small weblike weavings to protect children from bad dreams, and at one booth, the bumper sticker, "I ♡ to powwow."

Like most powwows these days, this one — the Green Corn Festival put on by the Mohegan tribe here last weekend — was once an intimate affair, a simple gathering held to celebrate the ripening of the corn.

But things change. "People have never expected the non-Indian culture not to change," said Jayne Fawcett, the tribe's vice chairman. "We change, too. We try to keep what's spiritually, artistically and culturally important and adapt them to life in the 21st century."

And something about today's pan-Indian powwow — with its mix of authenticity and kitsch, cold commercialism and warm circles of friends meeting each other after absences — is working for a great many people.

In the biggest powwow of them all east of the Mississippi, the Mashantucket Pequot tribal nation, which owns Foxwoods, one of the country's most profitable casinos, expects at least 50,000 people at its Schemitzun (pronounced ska-MIT-sun), which begins Sept. 4 at the Hartford Civic Center. The four-day festival, which was originally a corn festival like the Mohegans', will include more than 2,000 dancers and offer entrants more than \$850,000 in prizes.

Prize money? For what Indians carefully describe to non-Indians as dance ceremonies, not entertainment, performed by dancers in regalia, not costumes.

Wayne Reels, the cultural resources director for the Pequots, justified the prizes: "There's a different kind of powwow, where it draws diversified nations together, and the only way you really can do that is to make it affordable for them to come together."

Especially when they powwow so often. Mr. Reels estimated there are now 2,000 powwows of various sizes across America and Canada yearly. Some people who frequent the powwow circuit say the number seems to have tripled over the last 15 years in the Northeast.

Indian gatherings mix authenticity, commercialism and ancient traditions.

alone; this summer there have been three or four each weekend. But others say the number seems the same; the events themselves seem to get bigger and bigger.

Casino-rich Indians like the 300-strong Pequots in Ledyard, Conn., fan the popularity of powwows and strengthen Indian ties by sponsoring some of the gatherings. But powwow enthusiasts said that though the money helps, and though some tribes use their powwows as fund-raisers, it is the togetherness they offer that has made them succeed.

The Schemitzun extravaganza is on one end of the spectrum. More typical are powwows like the recent Green Corn Festival of the the Narragansetts in Rhode Island, ancient yet cozy meetings more like extended family reunions where members perform ceremonies they would not exhibit to the non-Indian public.

In the middle ground was the Fourth of July gathering held by the Mashpee Wampanoags of Cape Cod, which charged admission to the public and featured a game of five ball that makes major league soccer look like a game for wimps.

A Teaching Tool

Not that anyone thinks the non-Indian public should be kept out of all powwows. "These festivals are religious events," said Melissa Fawcett, who runs the Mohegans' cultural department, "and they are for teaching children about religion and culture, but they are also a way of bringing the general public to a much higher awareness of Indian culture." Such awareness has prompted a rise in the number of non-Indians who have been returning Indian artifacts to the tribes where they belong, she said.

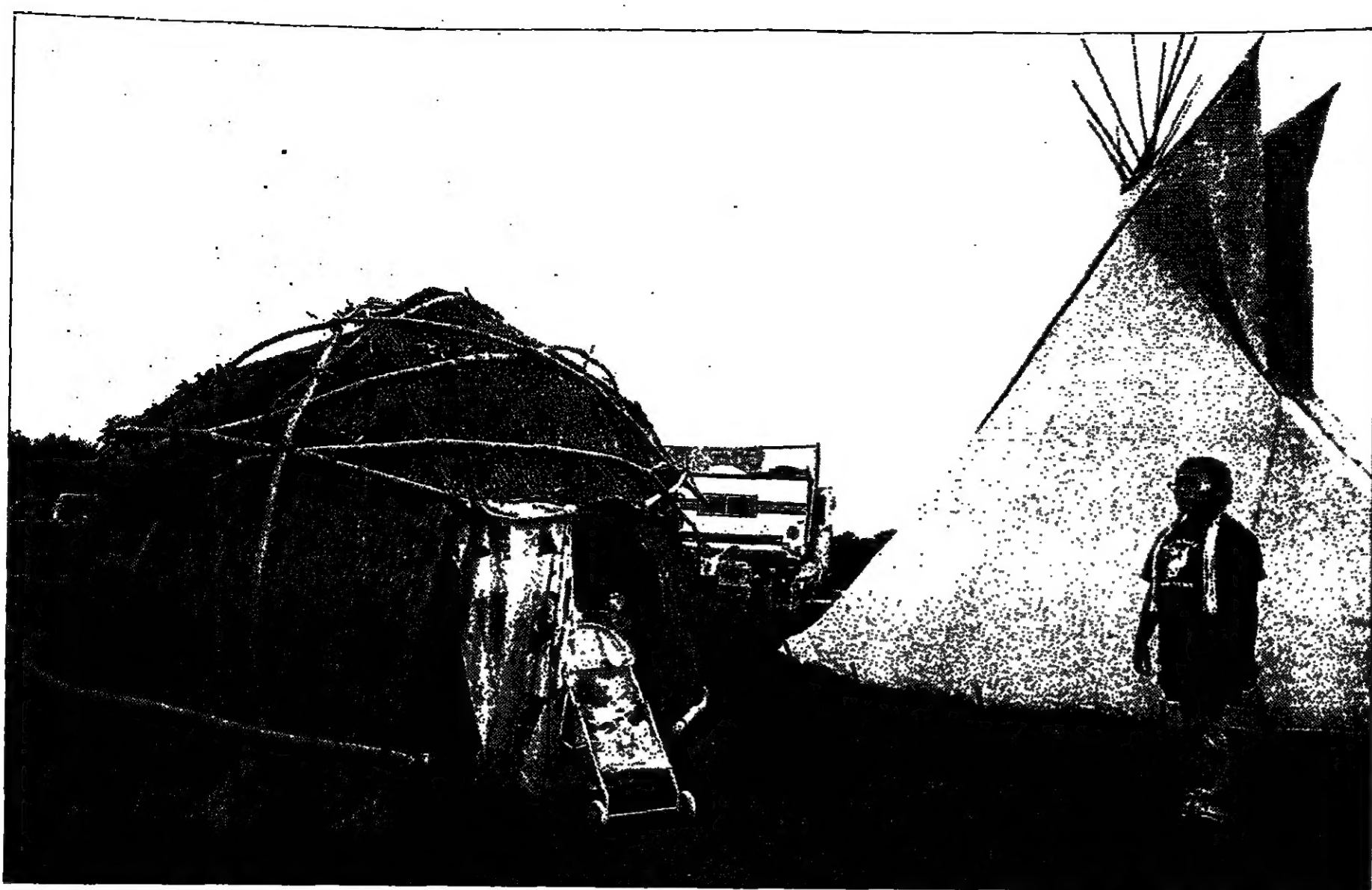
The Mohegans opened their own casino, the Mohegan Sun, in Montville less than a year ago, and its profits helped finance their powwow. But in some parts of the powwow, Ms. Fawcett said, money has no place, and some powwows should be held without prizes. "Sometimes you just have to celebrate to celebrate," she said. "If you do lose sight of that, it's terrible."

No one had to remind Brave Heart and Hawk, two Wampanoag brothers who are also known as Lee and Harry Edmonds, of the proper powwow spirit. Lee, 63, a retired electric company meter reader in impeccable buckskin he had sewn himself, said he brought his grandchildren "for the good time and to listen to the hot beat of the drum. It keeps us connected."

"We have to revive this culture," added Harry, 61, a Home Depot salesman. "So we have a powwow and pass it on and hope the kids will pass it on as well."

Indeed, for all the openness of the powwow to outsiders, several of those attending said it was most important as an Indian-to-Indian educational tool, as a way to insure cultural continuity among people who base their identity far more on shared culture than on race.

"The powwow circuit has turned more into a teaching gathering than it was years ago," said Richard Fournier, a Micmac Indian who co-owns the Micapache bead store in Manchester, N.H. Despite their imperfections, he said, "The end result is that the powwows have provided at least a beginning to educate people about the culture — and the ones who need the education most are the Native Americans."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP
At this month's Mohegan powwow in Montville, Conn., a wigwam and a teepee.

At the Narragansett's Green Corn Harvest Festival in the woods of Rhode Island.

At the Mashpee Wampanoag powwow on Cape Cod, the ancient game of five ball.

Two Narragansett tribe members browse a booth selling photographs of Indians from Eastern tribes.

Manny Monroe, a Narragansett, prepares his son, Larry, for a dance ceremony at the Mashpee Wampanoag powwow.

Ideas & Trends

Psst. Want a Ticket To a Rock Concert At a Giant Stadium?

By JON PARELES

Flemings had entertainment, they'd put on stadium concerts. Few other public events provide such an exquisite combination of anticipation and hassle. From expensive tickets to overpriced Pepsi, from the traffic jam at the entrance to the one after the show, fans pay in many ways for the privilege of seeing beloved musicians perform somewhere in the same zip code, rain or shine, no refunds or exchanges.

Gambling that an aging and fragmented audience will pay for high-priced seats.

On Monday, the Rolling Stones announced their latest triennial tour, starting Sept. 23 in Chicago and trekking to stadiums, hippodromes, sports domes and speedways. In between, the band will play on short notice at theaters and clubs.

It's big business, with the potential to rake in millions of dollars at the box office each week. It's also a risk, with huge production costs up front and a distinct possibility of public humiliation if the bleachers aren't full. At a time when the rock audience is fragmented into dozens of subgroups, sales of recordings are stagnant and people who

can afford the best seats are growing too sedentary to hike in from the parking lot, stadium concerts hold a whiff of anachronism.

In the fat years for concert promoters, summer brought a few stadium tours, with caravans of 18-wheelers carrying two full stages and crews, leapfrogging each other across the country to set up in one town while the band played in another. Through the 1980's and until 1994, the Grateful Dead rambled for six months a year, filling stadiums wherever they went. In 1994, a watershed year, the Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, the reunited Eagles and the piano-man double bill of Billy Joel and Elton John were also on the stadium circuit. More recently, stadiums have played host to isolated shows — like the Three Tenors, which caused limousine gridlock at Giants Stadium — but not coast-to-coast tours.

"It's always a gamble," said Gary Bongiovanni, the editor in chief of Pollstar magazine, which covers the concert business. "The safest thing that the Stones could have done would be to play arenas. They would turn thousands of people away, and people would be crowing about how hot they are. But they can't play for all the people who want to see them unless they want to be on the road for five years."

A Certain Indignity

Meanwhile, the summer season has become crammed with competing shows, and as ticket prices have risen, fans may simply be running out of cash.

Eclectic package tours like the Lollapalooza and Horde festivals have not filled arenas this year, much less stadiums, while only the female-dominated Lilith Fair has



Fans at U2's PopMart concert in Las Vegas last April. The band's tour was its first in nearly five years.

been selling out arenas. The indignity of big shows seems to be less of a factor than the price; at least 250,000 people happily packed in for Garth Brooks's freebie in Central Park this month.

U2, whose Zoo TV tour in 1992 redefined the stadium show as a self-conscious multimedia blitz, is on the road now with its PopMart tour. It boasts the world's biggest video screen but is facing thousands of empty, unsold seats. Even so, U2 is selling an average of 55,000 tickets and grossing \$2.7

million per city, Mr. Bongiovanni said.

The Rolling Stones have priced their nose-bleed seats more cheaply than U2's lowest price (younger people are more likely to scale the bleachers) and made their prime seats more expensive (a luxury baby boomers seem willing to pay for). And they have also booked name-brand opening acts like Sheryl Crow and Smashing Pumpkins.

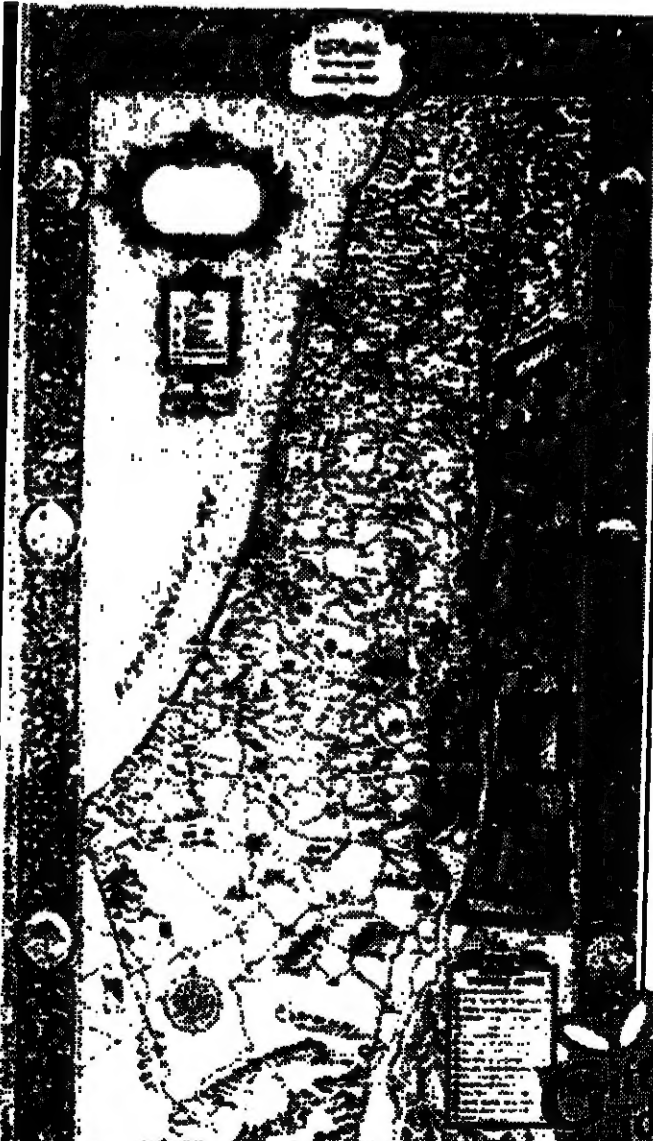
Just as important, the Stones are a rare phenomenon: a band that draws intensely loyal older fans as well as younger curiosity-

seekers. Most bands don't last as long or have the Stones' largescale showmanship, and recent decades have generated few successors. Pearl Jam, the only 1990's contender, cramped its touring potential by feuding with Ticketmaster, cutting itself off from the many sites Ticketmaster controls.

So the Rolling Stones, who have said this is their last tour until the next five, may be preserving an endangered tradition, as rare as it is excessive. Step over the beer pooling on the floor, and bring along the binoculars.

book department

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A Credo for the 90's: Make Cash, Not War

Continued From Page 1

have fostered integration. But the next stage is crucial.

"If peace is defined as the absence of conflict, that may or may not mean that you have what you need to get economic growth going," said Paul Goble, a former adviser to Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d on Soviet nationalities and the Baltics who is now a director at Radio Free Europe in Washington. Mr. Goble sees many false hopes for what peace could bring in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"The Chevron oil company has obviously seen the movie 'Field of Dreams' one too many times," he said. "If you drill it you can get it out." You can drill it, but whether you can get it out is a big question. Central Asia is potentially one of the wealthier places in the world except that its located in the middle of a huge land mass and you can't export things easily. If you have the infrastructure and geography right, then peace may let economic development break out. If you don't, then it doesn't."

James Chace, a Latin American expert who teaches international relations at Bard College and edits the

But peace at home is not just the absence of conflict abroad.

trickling down. A century later, the growing phenomenon of small civil conflicts, coupled with widening gaps between rich and poor in many nations — and the existence of hundreds of millions of people in absolute poverty worldwide — gives policymakers plenty to work on in peacetime.

"Peace is not only the absence of conflict," said Juan Somavia, Chile's representative at the United Nations. "It is the presence of human security — at the individual level, the family, the community. Peace is also positive things happening within a society. The two peaces are necessary. The problem today is that, yes, you have less major conflict, but you also have more human insecurity worldwide. The real security threat of the future is that people feel insecure in their own societies."

And it isn't hard to see why they would view economic globalization not as an unparalleled opportunity to attract investment and modernizing skills to their countries but as a new form of economic imperialism.

With external threats fading, the policies of nations are now on the line, with no place to hide, most economic historians and social scientists agree. Amartya Sen, professor of economics and philosophy at Harvard, says one challenge is to sustain research when there are no foreign threats, for the betterment of lives. Another is to change the thinking that posits war as a source of human creativity.

Domestic Upheavals

Claudia Goldin, an economic historian at Harvard, agrees. "Periods of war are periods of tremendous disruption," she said, and sometimes the negative effects are great even when the war is not fought on one's own soil. Case in point: the domestic upheaval caused in the United States by the Vietnam War. Calling wars the mother of invention is wrong, says Ms. Goldin.

"Out of World War II came antibiotics, aluminum, jet planes, the atomic bomb," she said. "We had everything that American ingenuity was forced through long hours and hard labor to invent in the briefest period of time."

"It was an enormous triumph but it was not because of the war. We had it in us all the time. We would have had a jet engine. Antibiotics would have been invented. Aluminum would have been produced. We had synthetic rubber, we just had no reason to use it. Most great inventions do not come when you have a gun to your head."

Technology crosses borders faster than ever. Money, too.

World Policy Journal, agrees that "the danger is to try to make too easy a connection between peace and prosperity." But he tempers his doubts. "It's true that in peace you are more likely to have prosperity. Generally businessmen don't like war. The merchants of death may, but that's an exception. For the average businessman, the banker, it spells turmoil, uncertainty — so why would you do it? Interstate conflict is less and less likely now."

The looming problem is translating worldwide growth into equity for all, he said, and that applies to the United States as much as to the third world.

"In times of war, you rally people around the flag," he said. "But if there's no trouble abroad, it's very hard to distract them. If you strip people of the benefits they have come to expect, if too many people are left out of the economic boom, particularly in the middle class, then you can have internal turmoil. Turmoil at home and peace abroad — I think that is the most likely danger, unless you begin to have an economy that avoids social dislocation."

Mr. Chace looks back to the 1890's, when the United States was at peace and in an economic boom, but there was unrest because organized labor was suppressed and not a lot of wealth was

ECONOMY

Crunch Time for a Fake Fat: Will America Take the Bait?

By GLENN COLLINS

RAIN was threatening early this month as a moist wind whipped the Fat Free Pringles tent at the RCA Tennis Championship here. Doggedly, Procter & Gamble workers set out plastic cups of potato chips as they proselytized for olestra, Procter's controversial new fat substitute.

Cassandra Campbell, a collection agent for a trucking company, picked up a sample. "Tastes like real Pringles," she said, munching an Original Flavor chip and eyeing her boyfriend, Bob Hamilton, who had already finished his fistful of Sour Cream 'N Onion. "No fat," she said. "I guess I can sit down now and eat half a bag!"

A visitor asked if they'd heard about any drawbacks to olestra. "Oh, you mean the loose stools?" Ms. Campbell said. "Well, my roommate had diarrhea. But I haven't had a problem." She smiled. "I have a stomach of steel."

Procter & Gamble will need a stomach of steel to peddle olestra nationally next summer, building on the lessons from its experience here in the city known as the Crossroads of America. The bad news is that most consumers are aware that olestra has been linked with one of the ugliest words in the food industry: "diarrhea." The good news: The Cassandras and Bobs of Indianapolis are eating the chips anyway.

The key? Procter & Gamble and its marketing partners, Frito-Lay and Nabisco — which buy olestra from P. & G. — have made it all but impossible for people to avoid trying snacks fried in Olestra, as the company calls its olestra product.

In this metropolitan area of 1.47 million people, the company has distributed more than 300,000 free samples of fat-free Pringles, and Frito-Lay has given away close to 500,000 samples of Lay's, Ruffles and Doritos chips made with olestra. Television and newspaper campaigns call the no-fat snacks "amazing" and "irresistible," in a blitz of promotion that has overwhelmed a consumer group's much smaller campaign contending that olestra will create a national public-health disaster.

Over all, 38 percent of the populace here has tried some form of olestra snack, P. & G. and supermarket executives say. Of those people, 71 percent have bought at least a second helping — even though every pack-

age carries a label as graphic as anything that has ever appeared on the side of a cigarette box: "Olestra may cause abdominal cramping and loose stools."

All of which augurs well for Procter & Gamble's half-billion-dollar wager that it can make money on a product that promises the taste of real potato chips without the fat and with half the calories, even if it makes some people sick.

Olestra's nemesis, Michael Jacobson, executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, says the marketers' efforts — what he calls an "enormous propaganda campaign" — are nothing less than "a demonstration of corporations without a conscience."

But for the companies, which reject such accusations, the principal lesson of the market testing is "the power of sampling, which blows away preconceived notions," said Casey Keller, the marketing director for Pringles. "Tasting is believing in this game," Mr. Keller said, describing a stealth strategy that flies under consumer-protectionist radar to target chip lovers' taste buds.

"I have been plagued with overweight all my life, and I love these products," said Dorothy Hall, a 65-year-old chip maven who buys her fat-free Ruffles in a Meijer hyperstore in northwest Indianapolis.

Even some of those who have suffered digestive distress cannot do without their olestra snacks. "I had to lay off these for a while because they gave me diarrhea and loose stools," said Matt Hale, an Indianapolis mechanic who was popping a canister of Fat-Free Pringles into his shopping cart at a Marsh store in the Broad Ripple section of town. "But I didn't think it was severe enough so I couldn't buy them again."

Five varieties of Frito-Lay's "Wow" chips, as the PepsiCo Inc. unit calls its olestra products, are already in the market here, along with three varieties of Procter & Gamble's own Pringles, its chips-in-a-canister brand. Frito-Lay's olestra Tostitos are to come in September. And in Marion, a city of 30,000 an hour and a half to the north, Nabisco is testing Fat Free Wheat Thins and Fat Free Ritz crackers.

Americans ate 5.5 billion pounds of salty snacks last year, or about 22 pounds a person, spending \$13 billion on snack chips.

Procter & Gamble and its allies say sales of olestra products can amount to 20 percent of the salty snack market — half of that grabbed

from competitors, half from buyers of their existing products; they also believe olestra could expand the overall snack market. And with further regulatory approvals, enthusiasts say olestra could gain a hold in the \$1.3 billion french-fry market in the United States, and enjoy huge success as a fat substitute in cakes, pies, cookies and ice cream.

ALREADY, Procter & Gamble and Wall Street are counting on olestra's earnings potential. John E. Pepper, the company's chairman and chief executive, told analysts recently that the company was aiming for \$900 million in domestic sales from olestra and \$400 million internationally "by the end of the decade."

For Frito-Lay, the king of snack-food manufacturers, with North American sales of \$6 billion, "this is the biggest product we've ever launched," said Steve Sears, a vice president of marketing heading up the Wow introduction. The rewards could be immediate: Andrew J. Conway, an analyst for Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, predicted that if volume was strong, Frito-Lay's olestra rollout "could increase 1998 PepsiCo earnings per share 1 to 2 cents" — or a total of \$35 to \$50 million in added operating profits.

Olestra products are so profitable because — as with many items — customers have been willing to pay more for something that promises "less." Procter & Gamble has been pricing its Olestra Pringles at more than a 40 percent premium to its regular Pringles, an average of \$1.79 for a six-ounce canister, versus \$1.29 for Pringles that contain fat. Even at such premiums, the company has sold more than seven million one-ounce servings of Pringles during the market test. And after five months in Indianapolis, Frito-Lay has sold 12 million servings of its olestra chips.

Supermarket store managers have monitored both the critical attacks and the companies' hype. They say there was an initial frenzy driven by the olestra controversy, as curiosity drove sales.

"Many out-of-state customers came here to ship olestra chips home," said Mike Bracken, a Cub Foods store manager for 14 years. Now, he said, the chips have settled down to sales that are simply strong. "We move 90 to 100 cases a week of Wow," Mr. Bracken said. "That's our number of cases of Oreos."

Chip sales, which were close to flat

in Indianapolis, have grown 10 percent since olestra test-marketing began. "People who left the chip market because of the fat are coming back thanks to Olestra," Mr. Keller said.

It hasn't been easy, though, marketing a fake fat that has been mocked by David Letterman on national television as being "approved by the Mexican Food and Drug Administration."

The Washington-based Center for Science in the Public Interest has aimed a barrage of rapid-fire publicity assaults against the ersatz fat — and says it has just begun to fight.

The center has crusaded against olestra since 1987 and is well known for its damaging excoriations of fat-rich Chinese and Mexican food and movie-house popcorn. In Indianapolis, the organization, through news conferences and print and television advertising, has warned residents that they "are being used as guinea pigs," said Mr. Jacobson, who contends that olestra "poses the short-term risk of diarrhea and the long-term risk of cancer."

The F.D.A. — the American one, that is — approved olestra for use in snacks in January 1996, after a nine-year review. It was the first new nutrient to enter the food supply since the sweetener aspartame, sold under the brand names Nutrasweet and Equal, was approved two decades ago.

Olestra is made by heating either soybean oil or cottonseed oil to high temperatures and then blending it with sugar. The olestra molecules are too large to be broken down by the digestive system, so they leave no calories behind. But in its journey, olestra picks up the fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E and K, as well as nutrients like carotenoids, which some researchers believe help prevent cancer and other chronic diseases. To counter these effects, olestra is now being fortified with the vitamins but not the carotenoids.

The F.D.A. insisted on the warning label after some researchers linked olestra to a higher incidence of gastrointestinal distress. But in approving the use of olestra, Dr. David A. Kessler, then the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, said research data "demonstrate reasonable certainty of no harm for use in certain snack foods." And the mantra for Procter & Gamble's researchers is that customers who think they have gastrointestinal problems from olestra are simply reporting at the average background rate of digestive upset in



Sampling the product in Indianapolis

the general population. That is about 2 percent, the same proportion of people who experience problems from eating raw vegetables or high-fiber foods like bran or beans.

"The idea of olestra causing any adverse effects is ridiculous," said Dr. Greg Allgood, a senior scientist at Procter & Gamble. "Michael Jacobson has failed to advance his agenda according to science and has resorted to publicity stunts."

But Mr. Jacobson's views are supported by Walter Willett, a physician who is chairman of the department of nutrition at Harvard University's School of Public Health.

"My major concern is the long-term health consequences," Dr. Willett said. Those who have no gastrointestinal distress, he said, "will go on eating olestra on a long-term basis, and this will increase their chance of getting serious disease," like heart attacks, strokes and blindness due to macular degeneration, a disease of the retina.

Olestra snacking "may be planting a bomb that could go off horrendously, several decades down the road," Dr. Willett said.

In Indianapolis, the health debate is being waged anew with much-disputed data gathered from competing olestra hot lines operated by Mr. Jacobson's center, P. & G., Frito-Lay and Nabisco.

The center's hot line has had 1,300 reports of health symptoms in market testing, Mr. Jacobson said. "About 15 percent of those who call us indicate a severe reaction," he said.

But Procter & Gamble says that only one customer in 20,000 has called its toll-free number with complaints about olestra chips — about 1,000 calls since the fat substitute was introduced in test markets.

In Indianapolis these days, there is a high level of awareness about some of olestra's negatives. The potential health effects "are in my mind, but I'm willing to take the risk," said Mark Watts, a registered nurse, grabbing a 13-ounce bag of Wow chips off the shelf at a Marsh supermarket.

But only one of several dozen chip buyers who were randomly interviewed had heard of the possible long-term problem — and he dismissed the concern. "I can't really believe that there's a fat-soluble nutrient deficiency problem," said Don DeLong, a retired chemist for Eli Lilly, who munched a sample of Fat Free Pringles at the RCA tournament.

It isn't difficult, though, to find people here who have had unhappy encounters with olestra.

"I saw them at a gas station and tried a one-serving bag," said Lauren Temmler, 21, a senior at Indiana University in Bloomington. "They were delicious. Until 45 minutes later, when I started getting cramps. There is no way I'd try these again."

Dr. Carol Sammeth, 38, an audiologist at a hospital in Indianapolis, ate a bag of chips and was "very ill for 12 hours, and up all night," she said.

"I did a mini experiment," Dr. Sammeth said. "I waited for four or five days, then tried a much smaller amount of the chips — and I had a milder version of the same symptoms. I had the same problem after a third try."

Consumers like these women have written letters to local newspapers, and many have contacted their Congresswoman, Julia M. Carson of Indianapolis. Ms. Carson, a Democrat, publicly criticized olestra, she said, "after 30 of my constituents wrote me letters describing their horrible experiences."

She has asked the F.D.A. to create an independent commission to review the safety of olestra. "And there is no requirement that the warning appear in the ads," she said, "so I'm asking the Federal Trade Commission to require that."

Procter & Gamble marketing executives look at overcoming olestra's unfortunate reputation as a test of their acumen. Indeed, if the national introduction of olestra is the Mount Everest of marketing, then 34-year-old Billy Cyr hopes to be its Sir Edmund Hillary.

"It's an unusual challenge, but not an unprecedented one," said Mr. Cyr, the marketing director for Olestra. He said the vocal opposition from Mr. Jacobson, for example, "is not that different from the presence of a product, or a brand competitor, that has staked out its turf in a test market."

Procter & Gamble and Frito-Lay are not saying how they will market their olestra products nationally. At Frito-Lay, "we're brainstorming ideas for the national launch" in mid-to-late 1998, said Mr. Sears, the Wow marketing chief. Advertising executives predict that Frito-Lay will budget at least \$20 million for the campaign.

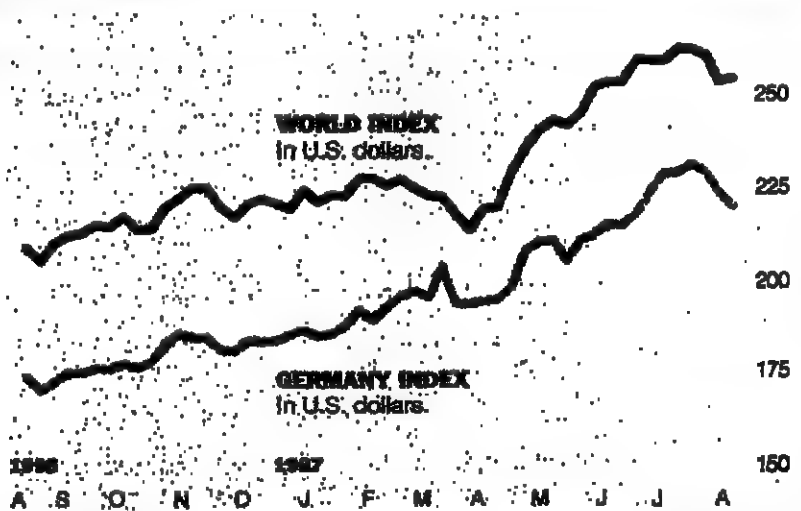
It took Nutrasweet \$35 million to establish its brand name in the 1970's and 80's, and Procter & Gamble is hardly expected to spend less in 1990's dollars — especially given olestra's negatives, which "must be faced head-on," said Clive Chajant, an independent New York consultant who advises companies on corporate and brand-identity issues.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS					IN LOCAL CURR.				
Country	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.
Australia	230.51	-1.5	15	3.9	20	205.03	10.3		
Austria	180.57	-2.8	25	0.4	21	179.94	18.4		
Belgium	237.38	-2.1	21	4.3	19	219.76	23.2		
Brazil	266.16	-2.2	22	40.3	2	534.79	47.4		
Britain	309.74	0.2	9	9.4	14	285.09	16.6		
Canada	214.66	0.3	8	13.1	10	216.71	15.0		
Denmark	389.90	0.7	6	10.8	13	387.72	30.2		
Finland	295.97	-2.2	28	20.5	5	1.63	337.72	42.1	
France	224.39	-0.6	12	5.1	18	2.44	215.99	23.7	
Germany	222.84	-1.7	15	17.3	8	1.36	210.53	38.3	
Hong Kong	537.16	-3.4	26	5.9	17	2.88	534.07	6.1	
Indonesia	177.23	0.6	7	-22.3	25	2.23	290.84	-12.1	
Ireland	365.59	-2.4	24	11.2	11	2.79	349.93	27.8	
Italy	97.93	-2.0	19	17.3	7	1.83	129.73	36.8	
Japan	128.35	-3.4	27	-0.6	22	0.83	95.25	0.6	
Malaysia	394.59	-0.6	13	-34.6	26	1.66	421.64	-28.1	
Mexico	1,794.99	0.9	5	47.2	1	1.47	15,263.37	45.8	
Netherlands	402.57	2.7	2	19.8	6	2.10	375.91	41.6	
New Zealand	89.47	1.0	4	-2.5	23	4.01	73.55	8.8	
Norway	316.85	-1.9	18	7.2	15	1.88	326.36	27.4	
Philippines	130.19	-0.1	10	-36.1	27	1.07	193.40	-27.5	
Singapore	341.44	3.4	1	-18.7	24	1.31	234.92	-13.2	
South Africa	338.16	-2.1	20	5.2	16	2.46	345.94	5.6	
Spain	243.51	-1.0	14	10.8	12	2.34	284.06	31.2	
Sweden	486.66	-1.7	17	15.3	9	1.80	573.18	34.4	
Switzerland	296.76	-0.2	11	24.4	3	1.21	275.84	38.9	
Thailand	46.32	-19.0	28	-51.6	28	5.07	60.86	-36.2	
United States	375.02	2.3	3	24.2	4	1.65	375.02	24.2	

COMPOSITE INDICES

Region	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank
Europe	270.35	-0.4	12	2.44	260.65
Pacific Basin	145.53	-3.1	21	1.32	109.16
Europe/Pacific	197.63	-1.6	6.0	1.96	166.07
World	256.98	0.3	14.6	1.80	231.00



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Acquisitions World Index, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1996 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

CURRENCIES				
Exchange rates	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	118.31	117.90	+0.34	108.13
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.8166	1.8245	-0.42	1.4790
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.3933	1.3886	+0.33	1.3707
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6093	1.6082	+0.06	1.5566

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

UPS AND DOWNS

Aug. 18-22: In a Wild Week, the Dow Makes 100-Point Swings Routine

PRICES

DOMESTIC EQUITIES		
Broad market	Up 2.52%	923.54
S. & P. 500 index		
Blue chips	Up 2.51%	7,887.91
Dow 30 industrials		
Small capitalization	Up 1.75%	415.73
Russell 2000 index		

DOMESTIC BONDS

Treasuries	Down 0.50%	202.14
Ryan Labs. Total Return		
Municipals	Down 0.25%	119.50
Bond Buyer index		
Corporates	Down 0.49%	890.36
Merrill Lynch Master index		

AROUND THE WORLD

European stocks	Down 0.33%	270.35
F.T.-Actuaries Europe		
Asian stocks	Down 3.04%	145.53
F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin		
Gold	Up 0.06%	
New York cash price		\$327.80

Foreign indexes are given in dollar terms.

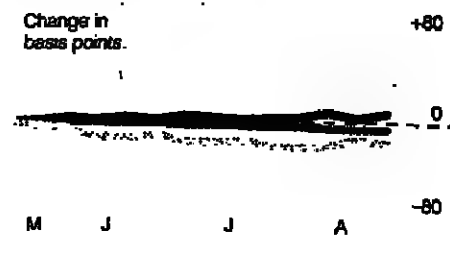
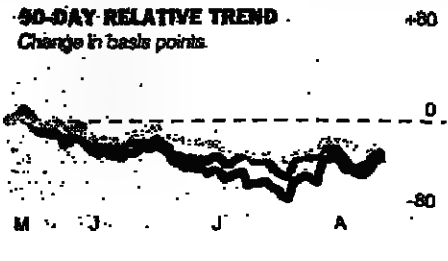
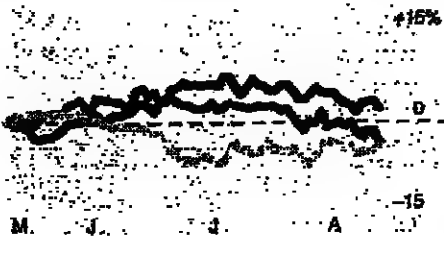
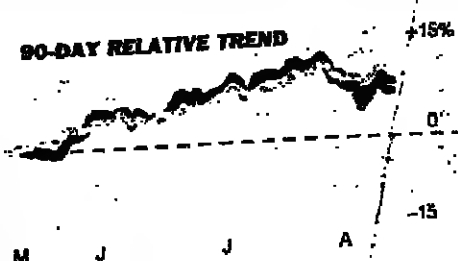
YIELDS

BONDS		
Long bonds	6.65%	
30-year Treasuries	Up 11 basis pts.	
Notes	5.94%	
2-year Treasuries	Up 14 basis pts.	
Municipals	5.58%	
Bond Buyer index	Unchanged	

100 basis points = 1 percentage point

OTHER INVESTMENTS

Money market funds	5.09%	
Taxable average	Up 5 basis pts.	
Bank C.D.'s	5.17%	
1-year small savers	Unchanged	
Stocks	1.67%	
S. & P. 500 dividend yield	Down 4 b.p.	



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

The New York Times

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First, Punish the Candidates

New York City is infamous for discouraging insurgent candidates from running for office. Politicians here are indoctrinated in a culture that prefers wiping opponents off the ballot in court to beating them in an election. This year, despite some attempts at reform, the system seems to be as efficient as ever at discouraging people from taking part in the democratic process.

One of the more outrageous examples took place in East New York. The low-income working families of this Brooklyn neighborhood need all the good representation they can get. But the incumbent City Council member, Priscilla Wooten, seems to direct her best skills at political self-preservation.

A local activist named Charles Barron decided to challenge Ms. Wooten in this year's Democratic primary. Unlike most grass-roots candidates, Mr. Barron built a real campaign. He raised \$15,000 — almost all in very small donations — through neighborhood house parties he called "chat-and-chews." Although a candidate for City Council needs only 900 signatures of registered voters in the district to get on the ballot, Mr. Barron's supporters collected more than 5,000.

Ms. Wooten's response was typical of everything that is wrong with the city's political culture. She did not turn her attention to beating Mr. Barron in the election. She tried to get him tossed off the ballot. When it became apparent that Mr. Barron had far more than enough signatures to qualify as a candidate, Ms. Wooten's campaign filed charges of voter fraud.

New York election experts say fraud charges seem to be an increasingly popular campaign tactic in the city's warped democratic process. Ms. Wooten claimed that Mr. Barron's wife had lied about witnessing petition signatures. She charged that another election worker collected signatures while on parole. The most interesting charge was that Mr. Barron, who was born in Queens, was not an American citizen.

The charges were dismissed, but Ms. Wooten appealed. Once again Mr. Barron won, but at a

price. He says he has spent more than \$10,000 defending his right to be on the ballot.

"It's hard to really regard this as a victory," he said. "People gave me money thinking it would go into campaign posters and flyers, not lawyer's fees."

Mr. Barron's story is not unusual. Nine of the 12 Brooklyn districts in which there was competition for a nomination wound up in court. Mr. Barron, who used to be a member of the Black Panthers, says he was warned to expect legal harassment when he decided to run. "I've been more scrutinized, investigated and attacked now that I want to engage in the political process than when I was trying to tear it down," he said.

The State Legislature has slowly been eliminating some of the more outrageous election rules that have made New York a laughing stock. Election lawyers can no longer go to the Board of Elections and claim that someone's petition signatures do not count because they were made in the wrong color ink. But the politicians' distaste for a fair fight has not changed. Instead of challenging signatures, they are charging fraud, claiming that the people who collected signatures did not really live at the addresses they claimed, or that they were paid for each signature they collected (instead of by the hour, which is legal). While the Brooklyn courts have been firm about requiring candidates to show proof of their charges immediately, lawyers in some boroughs can go on fishing expeditions while the accused candidate pays the bills.

Remarkably, Ms. Wooten finds nothing wrong with the system. "My community is poor, but that doesn't mean [candidates] shouldn't be challenged like the rest of the town," she said. "When you're in the game, you're in to win."

If no one can run for a local office like City Council in East New York without thousands of dollars in surplus funds, then East New York is not much more democratic than a one-party state where political opposition is suppressed. The political culture has re-created the poll tax, and a very expensive one at that.

No Need for Better Bombs

The surest way to improve America's nuclear security in the post-cold-war world is not by developing ever more effective nuclear warheads of our own. It is, rather, by pressing for deep cuts in Russia's poorly guarded nuclear arsenal and by halting the further spread of these weapons, especially to rogue states. Yet the Energy Department and America's nuclear weapons labs are now engaged in a nuclear weapons upgrade program that will make both of these vital arms control objectives harder to achieve.

The problem comes from a misuse of the \$4 billion-a-year stockpile stewardship program. President Clinton approved the program to shore up Pentagon and Energy Department support for the nuclear test ban treaty he signed last year.

The Administration sold the program to the public as a way to guarantee the continued safety and reliability of America's nuclear weapons stockpile through advanced computer simulations and other techniques without the need for actual nuclear weapons tests. But its obvious appeal to the military and weapons scientists is that it assures that the nuclear weapons labs will remain open and their bomb designers employed.

So long as the stewardship program is confined to maintaining existing weapons, it does some good and little harm. But documents made public last week by the Natural Resources Defense Council indicate that the Energy Department sees the program as a way to develop designs that add to the

power and precision of existing weapons or even to develop entirely new warheads. President Clinton must redirect the program back to its original, more modest goals.

Using the stewardship program to upgrade weapons by computer simulation would not violate the test ban treaty. The treaty simply bans all weapons tests involving nuclear chain reaction explosions.

But it would significantly reduce the chances of Russia's parliament approving the major nuclear arms reduction treaty that is now before it. That agreement, signed by Presidents Boris Yeltsin and George Bush in January 1993, would cut the number of permitted Russian warheads by half and completely eliminate land-based multiple warhead missiles, the cold war's most dangerous weapon. Russian nationalists can be counted on to resist any paring of Moscow's nuclear arsenal if Washington pushes ahead designing bigger and better bombs.

The bomb improvement program also reinforces the arguments made by countries, like India, that claim that non-nuclear nations should only be obliged to restrain their ambitions to the extent that the nuclear powers move to limit their own arsenals.

Mr. Clinton must resist any impulse to please all sides in this argument and come down firmly on the side of the arms control agreements America needs far more urgently than it needs improved nuclear bombs.

Women Arrive, Finally, at V.M.I.

Women broke the gender barrier at the nation's last all-male, state-supported military school last week when 30 female cadets entered the austere barracks of the Virginia Military Institute. It took a six-year legal struggle and a Supreme Court ruling that a taxpayer-financed school must accept women to get them there. But V.M.I. responded well, moving swiftly to insure that female cadets were treated fairly. V.M.I.'s enlightened attitude could serve as a model for the military as a whole.

Like their 430 male first-year classmates, the women received buzz cuts and wore drill uniforms. A few new regulations entered V.M.I.'s rulebook. Lipstick, jewelry and dating upperclassmen are not allowed. But the school has taken careful steps to prevent the turmoil that beset the Citadel, the South Carolina military institution that became the center of a national uproar when it was forced by the courts to admit Shannon Faulkner in 1995. Ms. Faulkner later departed, and last September male cadets were accused of tormenting and driving away two of the four female cadets who enrolled after her. The other two women completed their freshman year, an achievement that is more a credit to them than to the Citadel.

Before the women arrived, V.M.I. hired a female counselor and female physical education instructor. Its superintendent, Josiah Bunting 3d, required all 1,200 cadets and 400 employees to attend seminars on sexual harassment and fraternization. The senior class president told a student assembly:

"All eyes are on V.M.I. Some are just salivating at the thought of our failure. All it will take is the mistake of one person." At one point, a pile of dead rats and a "Save the Males" sign appeared on campus — a tasteless prank by students from nearby Washington and Lee University, as it turned out, that had nothing to do with V.M.I.

The female cadets appear to have learned from the experience of Ms. Faulkner, the pioneer who was nevertheless ill prepared for the Citadel's physical regimen and the isolation she experienced as the only woman cadet. Most of the V.M.I. women come from military families, and 19 attended the school's summer program, which had them running five miles and doing 25 pull-ups and 100 sit-ups each day in preparation for the minimum requirement of 5 pull-ups, 60 sit-ups in two minutes and 1.5 miles in less than 12 minutes. They had the extra benefit of bonding with other female cadets before enduring the rigors of the first week, when 5 percent of freshmen typically drop out. In fact, by Friday, 1 woman and 13 men had succumbed to the rigors of the "rat line," a punishing physical drill where upperclassmen also heap verbal insults on the newcomers.

This has been a troubled year for America's military, between sexual harassment charges and adultery scandals. V.M.I.'s careful efforts to insure a fair shake for its women, could serve as an example for a system that still seems uncomfortable with the notion of gender equality.

Don't Tinker Just When Health Care Is Working

To the Editor:

Re "Workers Getting Greater Freedom in Health Plans" (front page, Aug. 17): Just a decade ago consumers were outraged as health care costs spiraled 12 percent per year. Today costs are stable and medical care inflation is below 5 percent. Still everyone is unhappy. What it boils down to is that people want more health care, but no one wants to pay for it.

Although health care in California is still more expensive than in any other state, the number of insured is twice the national average. And according to a study by Spectrum Economics, the savings attained by California's managed care revolution probably exceeds \$4 billion per year.

With all of this success, California faces 11 pieces of legislation attempting to regulate managed care. They could increase health care costs up to \$11 billion, and invite frivolous lawsuits.

Regulation of health care must be achieved through deliberation, not by

a reactive, piecemeal approach. Gov. Pete Wilson of California realized this when he asked a task force to analyze the impact of managed care and make recommendations before he signed any reform bills.

Other states could learn a lesson from California: Figure out what is, and is not, working before trying to fix it.

DENISE DRAIZEN
Danville, Calif., Aug. 20, 1997

Bait-and-Switch Care

To the Editor:

Your Aug. 17 front-page article on health care says that "in response to public fears of restrictions on access to doctors and hospitals, employers have been offering their insured workers and retirees much wider varieties of health care." But the vast majority of workers are offered one plan.

According to a recent article in the Journal Health Affairs, only 12 percent of employers provide three health plan choices and only 23 per-

cent of employers offer two or more. Also, employers offer point-of-service plans not in response to the "public's fears," but as a bait-and-switch tactic. Workers are lured into health maintenance organizations with the promise of choice, but with huge out-of-pocket bills, usually 30 percent, when they get sick.

Employers have made money in health care by by-lining, not expanding, workers' choices and by cost-shifting. DWIGHT MCNEILL
Barrington, R.I., Aug. 18, 1997

The writer is president of Way Point Health, a consulting company.

Deductible Difference

To the Editor:

"Workers Getting Greater Freedom in Health Plans" (front page, Aug. 17) says traditional fee-for-service, or indemnity, plans are more expensive than managed care or point-of-service plans. This is only true when the indemnity policy carries a low deductible. When employers offer the option of a high-deductible indemnity policy, the savings can be substantial.

This may be the only way to contain costs without outside rationing. DAVID T. SPRINGER, M.D.
Media, Pa., Aug. 17, 1997

Nurses Can Help

To the Editor:

"Workers Getting Greater Freedom in Health Plans" (front page, Aug. 17) emphasized the importance of choice for patients in managed care. But choice need not be limited to doctors. Research shows that nurse practitioners can provide a substantial portion of primary care. With nurse midwives and other advanced-practice nurses, they have proved to be cost-effective providers, scoring high in patient satisfaction and minimizing costly hospital admissions. SALLY S. COHEN
New Haven, Aug. 19, 1997

The writer is director of the Center for Health Policy at Yale School of Nursing.

Easy Fix for Uninsured

To the Editor:

You discuss employer health care plans in "Workers Getting Greater Freedom in Health Plans" (front page, Aug. 21). But as you have reported before, nearly half of the working poor have no insurance. Given the magnitude of this problem, it is tragic that Congress missed two opportunities to address it.

Congress could easily have stipulated that the \$500-per-child tax credit be converted from cash into a mandatory health insurance voucher for the uninsured. It could also have stipulated that 25 cents (\$500 a year) of the increase in the minimum hourly wage be devoted to mandatory health insurance.

A contribution of \$500 can buy primary care, prescriptions and emergency care with \$10 copayments from health maintenance organizations. KENNETH S. ABRAMOWITZ
New York, Aug. 22, 1997

The writer is a health care analyst.

A.M.A.'s Money Game

To the Editor:

Hats off to your probing and to the American Medical Association for re-treating from an ill-conceived venture into hyping commercial medical products (editorial, Aug. 22).

This most recent faux pas suggests that the A.M.A. is on a collision course with its own identity. This is precipitated, perhaps, by its need to replenish a burdensome lobbying budget, the biggest chunk of which is campaign contributions.

As long as health care is on the table in Washington, the A.M.A. will feel forced to play the game and find itself strapped for cash. Considering how difficult it will be for Congress to forgo its health care money tree, you can bet serious legislation is a long way off.

TOM DELUCA
Upper Arlington, Ohio, Aug. 22, 1997

The writer is a health care consultant.

Cuban Culture Avoids Political Tensions

To the Editor:

Your article on the growing popularity of Cuban art in the United States (Arts pages, Aug. 21) says a "loophole" in the Helms-Burton Act is responsible for the surge in Cuban music sales. In fact, the Berman amendment to the embargo, passed in the late 1980's, exempted cultural activities from the restrictions imposed on trade between the United States and Cuba.

Since United States law prohibits sale of a Cuban product only if the earnings and up to Cuban Government coffers, the Castro regime has allowed its artists to keep their fees from performances and sales overseas. Also, regulations requiring performers to permanently reside in Cuba have been relaxed and artists are allowed to settle abroad, provided they do not break with the regime.

Before the Berman amendment, Cuban artists like Pablo Milanes and Gonzalo Rubalcaba were denied visas to perform in the United States. Today, United States record compa-



Vincent X. Kirsch

nies enjoy the benefits of the new cultural-exchange system.

President Castro winks at the thawing of cultural relations, but at the same time he is keeping political tensions with Washington as high as possible. RODOLFO A. WINDHAUSEN
New York, Aug. 21, 1997

History Says Arafat Won't Stop Terrorists

To the Editor:

Carmi Gillon indicates that Yasir Arafat can do a better job in preventing terrorism than Israel could before the Oslo accords (Op-Ed, Aug. 17). But under the Labor Government, when Israel allowed the Palestinian Authority to govern in Gaza and most of the West Bank cities and engaged in the political dialogue Mr. Gillon advocates, more than 200 Israelis were killed. Many hundreds more were wounded in terrorist attacks by groups operating in and from areas under authority control.

Moreover, the number of Israelis killed by terrorism in the two and a half years after Oslo I was double that of the preceding two and a half years. Israel has good reason to believe appeasement is not the answer to terrorism. DANIEL R. SCHAEFER
Hartford, Aug. 17, 1997

To the Editor:

Carmi Gillon (Op-Ed, Aug. 17) wishes Yasir Arafat could "confiscate all illegal weapons, clamp down on all anti-Israeli rhetoric and meet other demands of hard-liners in Israel."

These are the demands not of "hard-liners" but of the Oslo accords, which Mr. Arafat signed. Yet in the four years since then, he has turned a blind eye to the tens of thousands of weapons in the hands of terrorists in areas he controls and allowed the proliferation of anti-Jewish propaganda. How can there be hope for peace when he encourages an atmosphere of hate?

MORTON A. KLEIN
National President
Zionist Organization of America
New York, Aug. 18, 1997

Urban Assault Vehicles

To the Editor:

Richard Ford is right on target in "Behemoths on Wheels" (Op-Ed, Aug. 20). These "urban assault vehicles" are a prime example of what's both good and bad in America. Car manufacturers should be able to offer what the public is willing to buy, but it seems to be getting out of hand.

These vehicles are dangerous. Driving them should require additional driving skills because of their size. And they are not safe for those of us who prefer to drive in normal sized cars, rather than tanks.

And remember the gas crunch? How far have we come in breaking our dependence on foreign oil?

While these vehicles might be appropriate for driving in a true jungle, they are not appropriate for our urban jungles, as the advertisements suggest. JULIUS C. ALLEN
Houston, Aug. 21, 1997

Defending 'Tailors'

To the Editor:

Perhaps I should be cowed by the collective weight of contrary opinion (Critic's Notebook, Aug. 20, and letter, Aug. 21), but the criticism heaped upon Dorothy L. Sayers's novel "The Nine Tailors" reminds me instead of the adage that one person's meat is another's poison.

To me, "The Nine Tailors" is one of the most atmospheric, best-written and most satisfying novels in the genre. Not only is it my favorite Sayers mystery, it is the one mystery novel I'd want if stranded on a desert island. GRANT E. HICKS
Acton, Mass., Aug. 21, 1997

Let Volunteers Guide Children Through Child Welfare System

To the Editor:

A model for addressing some of the problems identified in your Aug. 17 editorial on New York City's child welfare system already exists. I am a court-appointed volunteer in New Jersey's Child Placement Review system. This system, used in other states throughout the country, insures that children taken out of their homes because of abuse or neglect have advocates to keep them from "getting lost" in the system.

Our top priority is to insure that the state's plans for each child serve the best interest of that child. We comb through extensive paperwork and interview parents and relatives, temporary caretakers, child welfare workers and the children.

The review board writes a recommendation to the presiding family court judge specifying how the child is doing in placement and detailing the efforts, or lack of, made by all

parties to find a permanent home. Why doesn't New York have a citizen review system, which is very cost-effective? LORI V. MORRIS
Princeton Junction, N.J., Aug. 17, 1997

Reforms Aren't Instant

To the Editor:

The assertion in "Little Progress on Child Abuse" (editorial, Aug. 17) that the child welfare system is "still in shambles" is false. Your editorial relies too heavily on a court review of cases opened by the Administration

for Children's Services between October 1996 and December 1996, before reforms were announced by Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani and me.

We never expected that the quality of casework would significantly improve before we began implementing reforms, or that such a historically troubled agency would be transformed months after implementation began. Only 54 of nearly 1,000 child protective workers had received our new training when reviews began.

We have reduced the number of undocumented determinations of abuse and neglect allegations from more than 30,000 in December 1996 to about 1,000 in June 1997. The average caseworker's caseload, which was 24 in August 1996, was 18 by June 1997.

While your editorial disparages our "compliance with paper requirements," such compliance is required to receive essential state and Federal financing. We have made a 43 percent increase in meeting legal compliance requirements since May 1997.

Also, the case files we track allow caseworkers to protect children in our system and their siblings who may be the subjects of future reports. Compliance is central to protecting children. NICHOLAS SCOPETTA
Commissioner, Administration for Children's Services
New York, Aug. 19, 1997



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In America
BOB HERBERT

Connect The Dots

Now we learn that the Police Department's Internal Affairs Division mishandled the first tip it received about the attack on Abner Louima. The call came in the same day that the attack occurred, but nothing happened until 35 hours after the attack, when a second call was received.

Internal Affairs operates under new, tougher rules and was supposed to have improved its performance since the report of the Mollen Commission described it as a "do-nothing" agency in 1994.

The authors of the report said: "From the beginning of our inquiries, I.A.D. investigators cooperating with the commission told us that the work ethic in I.A.D. was to close cases with as little effort as possible." The commission was told that most investigators "sit around and eat donuts and do crossword puzzles," and their supervisors did little more.

That was supposed to have changed, but apparently it has not changed enough. I.A.D. may have improved the way it handles corruption, but it has done little to alter the culture of the department when it comes to violence. Police brutality is widely practiced and widely tolerated. And that is the essential and very tragic issue that has been deliberately avoided for years.

There has been a blind insistence by some public officials, including several generations of judges and district attorneys, that no matter how many acts of brutality come to light they do not constitute a pattern of police violence. Very few officials have been willing to connect the dots. No one has had the courage to step in and say: enough.

The evidence has been overwhelming. The Mollen Commission found that some police officers "are violent simply for the sake of violence." The

What will it take for officials to see a pattern of police violence?

report said: "One officer from a Brooklyn North precinct told us how he and his colleagues once threw a bucket of ammonia in the face of an individual detained in a precinct holding pen. Another cooperating officer told us how he and his colleagues threw garbage and then boiling water on a person hiding from them in a dumbwaiter shaft."

An exchange between commission investigators and a particularly brutal cop from the 46th Precinct in the Bronx went as follows:

"Did you beat people up who you arrested?"

"No. We'd just beat people in general. If they're on the street, hanging around drug locations. It was a show of force."

"Why were these beatings done?"

"To show who was in charge. We were in charge, the police."

The report described how a group of officers "sliced an escape rope hanging from a drug dealer's window so that anyone who used it would plunge to the ground. They also once raided a brothel in uniform, ordered the men to leave and the women to line up. The cops then picked their victims of choice and proceeded to terrorize and rape them without compunction."

An organized multiple rape by police officers in uniform. Where were the screaming headlines? Why didn't we see crowds of public officials elbowing one another for space in front of the television cameras and the opportunity to vent their outrage? Why wasn't rape enough to turn the stomachs of everyone in the department, thus causing the so-called blue wall to crumble?

The Mollen report also described an attack by a group of police officers at an apartment building that was the site of drug activity: "They descended upon the building swinging nightsticks and fists, simply to pass the night away. The beating spree spared no one that night, the good, the bad, the young, the old."

The report went on to say: "The victims were all perceived as 'One.' They were the 'Them' in a world often described as 'Us vs. Them,' a world that far too often pits the police against the people they are sworn to serve. It is this attitude that allows cops to detach themselves from the public, and from the norms and customs that govern the 'real world' from which they come. And it is this attitude that makes both brutality and corruption easier to commit and to tolerate."

You cannot read the Mollen report and then honestly claim to be unaware of the gruesome plague of violence in the Police Department. Ignoring the plague encourages it, worsens it. As the report correctly noted, brutality that is left unchecked "not only emboldens officers susceptible to brutality, but makes them feel invulnerable." □



The Worker Backlash

By Stephen S. Roach

THE JUST-RESOLVED United Parcel Service strike was a shot across the bow of the inflation-less 1990's. American workers are now beginning to challenge the very forces that have led to a spectacular resur-

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gence in corporate profitability and competitiveness in the United States. They are, in effect, saying "no" to years of corporate cost cutting that has been directed primarily at the nation's labor force.

The strike and the settlement, which was largely on the union's terms, question the wisdom of a Federal Reserve that, by leaving monetary policy steady, seems content to ignore the danger of renewed inflation. And the settlement underscores the potential for a sharp decline in the ever frothy stock and bond markets.

These concerns are certainly at odds with today's conventional wisdom. Many believe that the United States economy has entered a new era. According to this tale, the post-cold-war forces of globalization, deregulation, and a technology-led information Age have combined to produce a rare and powerful recovery, led by increased worker productivity.

In such a scenario, wage increases are largely offset by increased worker productivity. As a result, costs are held in check, inflation remains quiescent and corporate profit margins widen inexorably. The financial markets enjoy the best of all worlds: low interest rates that underpin a strong bond market and healthy corporate earnings that nourish an ever rising stock market.

The productivity-led recovery offers ample rewards for shareholders

and workers alike. Labor can reap higher wages as its productivity increases, while investors can reap handsome returns.

It's quite possible, however, that a very different scenario has been responsible for the good news on inflation and corporate profits in recent years. Call it a labor-crunch recovery — one that flourishes only because corporate America puts unrelenting pressure on its work force.

U.P.S. strikers win. Is that a sign that the economy will slow down?

This is a much tougher and more pessimistic vision of the United States economy in the 1990's. Pressured by intense global competition and frustrated by efforts to boost productivity in information or service industries, businesses become fixated on slashing labor costs, which account for close to 70 percent of all corporate expenses in the United States.

Intimidated by the ultimate threat of job security, labor initially complies with corporate America's demands. Companies hire more temporary and part-time workers, and full-time workers are made to stretch their work schedules as never before. At the same time, employees begin to bear more of the cost of their

benefits, including health insurance. And then there's the clincher: wages, adjusted for inflation, are squeezed, leading to a near stagnation that has persisted for more than two decades.

Unlike the productivity-led recovery, the labor-crunch recovery is not sustainable. It is a recipe for mounting tensions, in which a raw power struggle occurs between capital and labor. Investors are initially rewarded beyond their wildest dreams, but those rewards could eventually be wiped out by a worker backlash.

Investors are quick to repudiate the case for worker backlash and defend the miracles of the productivity-led recovery. And why shouldn't they? The latter promises no end in sight to the glorious bull markets of the 1990's.

But there's one small problem with this grand vision of the brave new world. There's not a shred of credible evidence in the macro-economy that supports the notion of a meaningful improvement in America's productivity.

Indeed, in the Commerce Department's just-completed comprehensive revision of the national economic accounts, the poor productivity performance of the 1990's was left essentially unaltered. It found that the United States experienced average annual gains of slightly less than 1 percent over the past six years, little different from the disappointing performance of the 1980's and less than half the gains of the 1950's and 1960's.

It's at this point that productivity revivalists claim foul. They argue that the data must simply be wrong. Even Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, has embraced this point of view, and it seems to have had a major impact on the Fed's recent decisions to leave monetary policy unchanged.

But the weight of evidence is increasingly in favor of the labor-crunch scenario. And it's not just the

official statistics on productivity that favor this argument.

There has also been a dramatic realignment of the nation's economic pie, with a much larger slice going to capital and a smaller one going to labor. Corporate profits surged to 9.6 percent of gross domestic product in 1996, the highest share in 28 years, and labor compensation stood at 58 percent of gross domestic product in 1996, well below the high of 59 percent hit in the late 1980's.

Which takes us back to the recently settled U.P.S. strike. One strike hard-

ly makes a trend. But there can be no mistaking the message from the nation's most significant work stoppage since 1983. Today, with the unemployment rate at a 24-year low, labor unions were emboldened to take action. And with corporate profitability at its highest in a generation, management has decided that it can afford to give workers a raise. For U.P.S., the cost of settlement is hardly trivial. By some estimates, it will eventually cost as much as \$1 billion a year, and that comes right out of the company's bottom line.

In the end, that's what worker backlash is all about. It speaks of a labor force that challenges the very notion of cost cutting, which has been central to America's economic recovery in the 1990's.

Whether future labor battles are fought over wages, part-time work, mandatory overtime, temporary workers or pension and medical benefits, the message will be the same: gone are the days of a docile American labor force that once acquiesced to slash-and-burn corporate restructuring.

The potential for worker backlash raises profound questions. Can higher inflation and thinner profit margins be far behind? Can the Federal Reserve afford to keep interest rates low? Will the financial markets continue to enjoy unbounded exuberance?

As the pendulum of economic power begins to swing from capital back to labor, these are the very risks we must now begin to confront. □

How We Down Here View What's Out There

By Richard A. Shweder

MCHILMARK, Mass. — any Americans have apparently traded in their old perceptions of the heavens for something new. Gone is the vision of the starry sky as a canopy separating us from paradise. Gone is the counter-image of the aerial regions as a mindless matrix of dead elements, silent forces and intergalactic debris. According to a recent Harris poll, about 60 percent of Americans believe that there is some kind of sensible being out there in space, and the belief is more common among the more highly educated.

An open-minded American can believe anything.

The celestial bodies and spaces of our visible universe have always been a cosmic Rorschach test, inviting the human imagination to project meaning into outer space. And until recently, two master narratives have prevailed. One is the religious epic about sunlight as the shadow of God and starlight as the luminous power of heaven shining through holes in the firmament. The other is the equally momentous secular saga about space as an ocean of emptiness, an astro-physical and metaphysical void, offering no hope of celestial glory. These days, many of us have lost confidence in — or have become bored with — both types of tales.

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Closer analysis suggests that educated opinion on the meaning of the blue yonder divides into three camps. There are those who hold the belief — perhaps fueled by all those episodes of "Star Trek" — that amidst all those "billions and billions of stars" is an extraterrestrial smarter than Einstein and more erudite than Aristotle. According to the Harris poll, this is a large and growing group.

Then there are those who emphatically deny the existence of extraterrestrials. As they see it, if you can't find signs of intelligent life on earth, you're not going to find them anywhere else. So they find it easy to dismiss the tales of those who claim to have been abducted by aliens, taken for a ride on a U.F.O. and sent home with a videotape of elflike creatures sipping tea by the control panel.

Perhaps one reason people in this group are so skeptical is that when they were kids, "Invaders From Mars" and "War of the Worlds" gave them nightmares. They find comfort in the idea that there is no one out there beyond our cozy home planet.

Finally, there are those who believe that anything is possible, and so they are willing to be open to the idea of intelligent life in outer space. When the Central Intelligence Agency recently disclosed that more than half of the alleged U.F.O. sightings in the 1950's and 1960's could be attributed to high-altitude spy planes, many people in this camp probably wondered whether a crafty U.F.O. captain, trying to get a peek at our planet, might have been shadowing those U-2's to avoid visual detection from the ground.

The big question is why so many of America's best and brightest have embraced the idea that intelligent extraterrestrial life exists, or at least that it might. One explanation, favored by disenchanted political analysts, is that Americans have become appropriately cynical, believing that if you can't find signs of higher intelligence on earth, you might as well search somewhere else.

A second explanation, favored by conservative critics of higher educa-

tion, is that our venerable religious and scientific master narratives about the heavens have been deconstructed by skeptical and nihilistic champions of postmodernism.

Many American college students do think that to be educated is to be open-minded, and that anything is possible. At least 60 percent of my most literate and sophisticated undergraduates believe that levitation cannot be ruled out. A few of them believe that magi-

cians really do perform levitation and that they call it magic so as not to frighten the general population. So why not extraterrestrials?

A third explanation gives a more positive spin to Americans' open-mindedness about the heavens. According to this view, a long-overdue spiritual revival is taking place in the United States in which the tired and tiresome opposition between faith and science is finally being laid to rest.

Those who see this as an uplifting development may also welcome the boom in books, movies and television shows that take us, as "Star Trek" would have it, "where no man has gone before" — beyond the legends of premodern theology and the disenchanting stories of modern science.

At the moment, all one can say with confidence is that interpretations of the cosmic inkblot are changing. And only God knows what it all means. □

See-No-Evil Officers Should Pay

By Joel Berger

Responding to the outrage over the latest case of police brutality, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani announced last week that he was ordering every city police officer to spend several hours in a discussion group, organized by a new task force.

At this news, one sighs. Who could complain about such an idea? But it is a wholly inadequate measure. If Mayor Giuliani is serious about combating police brutality, he should stop appointing task forces and start disciplining officers who do not come forward about brutality they have seen.

Mayor Giuliani's own Commission to Combat Police Corruption issued an excellent report last year documenting the department's failure in 1995 and 1996 to adequately punish officers who blatantly lied to protect other officers charged with brutality. The Giuliani Administration responded to that report by promising to fire officers who lie.

But take the case of Officer Francis

X. Livoti, who was found by the police to have used an illegal choke hold while arresting Anthony Baez, who died during the incident. Mr. Livoti was fired last February. But the sergeant who was with him that night was not disciplined. Nor were other officers who testified at Mr. Livoti's criminal trial, in which he was found not guilty of criminally negligent homicide. During that trial, Acting Justice Gerald Sheldin said that he suspected "a nest of perjury," apparently referring to testimony by three of Officer Livoti's colleagues.

The police don't need discussion groups about brutality.

When Police Commissioner Howard Safir was asked to explain this failure he responded, "Nobody has brought any perjury to my attention, especially the trial judge."

The Livoti case was by no means an isolated incident. In 1995, Officer James Pizzi was convicted of felonious

assault and dismissed from the police force for viciously beating a youth. During the trial his partner, Frank Bolusi, testified that he was catching up on his memo book and paperwork and heard and saw nothing. Judge Ronald J. Aiello of the state Supreme Court criticized Mr. Bolusi's "rather astounding ignorance of what happened that night." Yet to this day, Mr. Bolusi has not been departmentally disciplined.

The message until last week was unmistakable: failing to report brutality, and even covering it up, were not deemed serious offenses.

In the case of Abner Louima, Mayor Giuliani and Commissioner Safir have taken some steps in the right direction. One hopes that the suspensions of the 70th Precinct desk sergeant and other officers who must have known that something was awry represents a new attitude toward these matters by the Mayor and his Police Department.

These individuals should be brought up on department disciplinary charges and if found guilty, dismissed from the force. More important, the Mayor must order the department to handle all other brutality cases in the same manner, as recommended by his own commission last year. Only then will a strong message be sent. Anything less will condone the return of the Blue Wall of Silence. □

THE ARTS

Lives of the Artists Beneath the Glossy Surface

By ALAN RIDING

RECONSTRUCTED in a studio in London's East End, Soho's Colony Room club looks seedily authentic. And as always, the champagne is flowing, the mood bohemian, the language florid. Then, in walks Francis Bacon, already in the mid-1960's hailed as Britain's greatest postwar painter. Or rather, in walks the Shakespearean actor Derek Jacobi looking sufficiently like Bacon to shock some extras who knew the stocky broad-faced artist.

Bacon is a regular in the club that he nicknamed "a concentration of camp" and he is promptly welcomed by his drinking mates with a roar of dark-haired young man. "This is George," he says. "Introduce yourselves. George is a little shy."

As it happens, the newcomer, George Dyer, played here by Daniel Craig, would soon become a familiar face at the Colony Room because over the next seven years he was Bacon's principal lover and most important model. And it is their stormy relationship that the British director and screenwriter John Maybury has chosen to focus on in "Love Is the Devil," the first feature film about Bacon, whose paintings are distinguished by their anguished and tortured human forms. The movie, which is to be released early next year, ends with Dyer's suicide on the eve of Bacon's major retrospective at the Grand Palais in Paris in October 1971. Bacon himself lived another 21 years.

"It's as much the George Dyer story as it is the Francis Bacon story, although I see Bacon as the central character," Mr. Maybury, 38, said in an interview in Paris on the eve of completing seven weeks of filming in London and Paris earlier this summer. "Bacon is an incredibly fascinating character, as a painter, as an English-Irishman and as a character in London."

The idea of turning the lives of great artists into movies has been an attractive one for a long time: In the 1930's, Charles Laughton played the title role in "Rembrandt"; in the 1950's, Kirk Douglas was van Gogh in "Lust for Life"; in the 1960's, Charlton Heston took on Michelangelo — and the Sistine Chapel — in "The

Agony and the Ecstasy." And the list goes on — movies good and bad, over the years, about Caravaggio, Modigliani, Camille Claudel, Munch, Toulouse-Lautrec and Warhol, plus two more about van Gogh, one more about Rembrandt and many others.

A good many of those movies were art-house films. The new film about Bacon, however, seems to be part of a new wave of film portraits of painters intended for larger audiences, in Europe and the United States. Of late, there have been Christopher Hampton's "Carrington," about the English painter Leonora Carrington's relationship with the writer Lytton Strachey; Ismail Merchant and James Ivory's "Surviving Picasso," about Picasso's 10-year liaison with Françoise Gilot, and "Basquiat," the painter Julian Schnabel's tribute to the young New York graffiti artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, who died of a drug overdose in 1988. In addition to "Love Is the Devil," movies are being prepared about the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, the Abstract Expressionist master Jackson Pollock and (again) Rembrandt. There is also talk of movies about Georgia O'Keeffe (Michelle Pfeiffer is interested), Diane Arbus, Robert Mapplethorpe and, again, Modigliani.

What gives these films a new sort of audience appeal is that like many of today's biographies, they are not simply paeans. Rather, the artists are being portrayed as flawed human beings, people whose emotional torments, personal tragedies, assorted addictions or sexual unorthodoxies are as important as their art. True, without their art, their private dramas and frequent forms of self-destruction might seem tawdry, even commonplace. But it is evidently easier to understand their pain than it is to fathom their genius. And it is often pain — or some form of inner turmoil — that drives the creative process.

"How often can you take shots of a painter painting?" James Ivory asked during the making of "Surviving Picasso."

Certainly, in "Surviving Picasso" and "Carrington," the artist is rarely seen at work. "Basquiat" gives a better idea of the young painter's vision, although the film dwells on how fame, money and greed eventually crush him. In "Love Is the Devil," while the director tries to balance life and art, the screenplay



Derek Jacobi as Francis Bacon in "Love Is the Devil."

shows Bacon more often at play — drinking, gambling, cooking, watching boxing, making love — than at the easel.

MR. MAYBURY, who studied art in London before turning to avant-garde and experimental films, said he was first invited by the BBC a couple of years ago to direct a conventional "bio-pic," what he calls a "Francis Bacon was born in Dublin in 1909" movie, but he quickly lost interest and withdrew. Three months later, he was invited back to write his own screenplay about Bacon. This time, he jumped. He said he had always liked Bacon's paintings of Dyer and had wondered what lay behind them. He also felt a certain identity with the painter.

"I was interested in the dynamic of the Bacon-Dyer relationship because it was something I could understand," he explained. His approach, then, is by definition

intimate, at times harrowingly so, although less because of the sex scenes between Bacon and Dyer than because of the artist's frequent cruelty toward his lover.

"In the sexual arena, Bacon was notoriously a masochist and his partners in general were sadists," Mr. Maybury said. "But the psychological scenario was the exact reverse. Bacon was somehow the sadist and the partners were the masochists."

Still, like Mr. Schnabel, he has had to deal with the problem of portraying a celebrity artist who died in recent years and whose friends (and foes) are still around. But unlike Mr. Schnabel, who knew Basquiat well, Mr. Maybury never met Bacon and has had to sort through conflicting opinions of his personality.

"Lots of Bacon's friends said what a warm generous loving man he was," the director said. "But just as many of his friends said how evil, how vile, he was. I recognize a lot of that in myself and my friends. Peo-

ple can be very warm, giving, loving and generous and be evil as well. Drink doesn't help."

Mr. Maybury conceded that his screenplay shows Bacon to be a fairly unpleasant character, although he said he was pleased that Mr. Jacobi "has brought the warmth and generosity of spirit that some people told the Bacon had." Through off-camera commentaries and excerpts from television interviews, the director also gives Bacon the chance to explain his art and the carnal, mutilated human forms that he portrays.

"Some seem to think my work is drawn from an expression of horror, which has never really concerned me," Bacon says in a voice-over as he shows Dyer around the British Museum. "Pleasure is impossible to define, and I feel horror occupies much the same territory."

None of Bacon's paintings, however, will be seen in the movie: while nothing came of rumors that the Bacon estate might seek an injunction to halt shooting, it did refuse to cooperate with the film. (Similarly, Claude Picasso objected to the Merchant Ivory film and prevented any of his father's work from being shown in "Surviving Picasso.")

Still, with Mr. Jacobi, who most recently played Claudius in Kenneth Branagh's "Hamlet," "Love Is the Devil" at least has a Bacon who looks the part (even though it was originally offered to Malcolm McDowell). And when the public has a strong visual image of some celebrity, this obviously helps. To play the short barrel-chested maestro in "Surviving Picasso," for instance, Anthony Hopkins lost 30 pounds, shaved his scalp and wore dark contact lenses. Jeffrey Wright is a convincing wraith in "Basquiat," above all capturing the artist's mannerisms, while in "Carrington," Emma Thompson looks like, well, Emma Thompson, but Jonathan Pryce closely resembles photographs of Strachey.

In other forthcoming movies on painters, the fast-rising Mexican actress Selma Hayek ("Desperado") has agreed to play the lead role in "Frida," to be directed by Robert Sneider. Clancy Sigal is writing the screenplay based on Hayden Herrera's acclaimed biography of Frida Kahlo, with filming to begin in Mexico in the late fall. The new film about Rembrandt, still untitled, is a French production to be directed by Charles

Matton, himself a painter and sculptor, with the German actor Klaus Maria Brandauer ("Mephisto") and "Out of Africa") playing the Dutch master (speaking French). Mr. Matton hopes to start filming in the coming months.

Film projects based on various biographies of Jackson Pollock have been in the air for some time, but the one that looks most likely to happen involves the actor Ed Harris ("Apollo 13" and "Nixon"), who is eager to play the role of the painter who died in a car crash in 1956. A screenplay has been written by Barbara Turner and Susan Emschwiller based on the Pulitzer-Prize-winning biography "Jackson Pollock: An American Saga," by Steven Naifeh and Gregory White Smith, the movie rights to which have been bought by Peter M. Brant, who also produced "Basquiat."

"I think we have a strong draft; Frances McDormand is intensely interested in playing Pollock's wife, Lee Krasner, and we're now looking for a director," Mr. Harris, who confesses a "certain physical similarity" to Pollock, said in a telephone interview. "The main focus will be his relationship with Lee. But if his art is not represented properly, there's no point in doing the film. You can't downplay that he was a very serious alcoholic, but all of that came from somewhere, from a lot of fear and pain, I believe."

The approach of other planned movies is still unclear. Almost inevitably, though, films based on biographies delve into artists' personal lives as much as into their art. In "Surviving Picasso," for example, the portrayal of the painter as a misogynist echoes that of Arianna Stassinopoulos Huffington's 1988 biography, "Picasso: Creator and Destroyer." The BBC acquired the movie rights for Daniel Farson's memoir, "The Gilded Gutter Life of Francis Bacon," although in practice Mr. Maybury did much of his own research.

Sylvie Matton, who has written the new Rembrandt screenplay with her director husband, said they also did their own research. They intend to show Rembrandt at work, but they too have been drawn by the drama of his life and death. "It's a story of betrayal as society turns against him," she explained.

New Angle on the McCourts

By M. P. DUNLEAVEY

STANDING in a booth at TMF Studios on West 13th Street in Manhattan, his head engulfed by earphones the size of hubcaps, the author Frank McCourt lifts a harmonica to his lips and runs through his brief but rollicking repertoire of Irish tunes. As a recording engineer adjusts sound levels, Mr. McCourt plays a few more renditions, then begins to sing, his baritone and brogue doing a credible job with boyhood favorites like "Barfoot Days" and "Phil the Fluter's Ball."

An American Express commercial, perhaps? A radio spot to push "Angela's Ashes," Mr. McCourt's Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir, even further into best-sellerdom? In fact, Mr. McCourt is one of a dozen New Yorkers who have thrown their talent and support behind a certain Irish-American cause célèbre: the transformation of a one-hour video called "The McCourts of Limerick" into a documentary suitable for distribution.

This history of the McCourt clan was conceived and directed by Frank's nephew Conor McCourt, a 31-year-old bicycle policeman on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. And until a couple of months ago, it was scarcely more than a well-made home movie with lots of spirit and some compelling scenes of the increasingly well-known McCourt clan.

Hollywood will have its "Angela's Ashes," of course. The producer Scott Rudin bought the film rights to Frank's book for \$1 million, and Rosie O'Donnell is vying for the part of Angela McCourt, Frank's mother, whose husband abandoned her and

her four young sons in Ireland during World War II. In the meantime, Conor and Company are hoping his homespun account of the family, newly polished and set for a world premiere at the Cork Film Festival in Ireland on Oct. 19, will attract its own particular audience.

As tempting as it is to see "The McCourts of Limerick" as the documentary version of "Angela's Ashes," Conor's film is more like a waltz behind the scenes, in which each character finally gets a chance to take the lead. And unlike the memoir, which is largely Frank's story told through his eyes as a child, the documentary captures more of the brothers' relationships with one another, as well as allowing each to convey, in his own words and snippets of poetry and song, what life in Limerick was like 50 years ago. As Alphonse, the youngest at 57, puts it: "The bleakness, darkness, dampness and my father being gone."

Conor, a son of Malachy McCourt, has been filming his extended family since he got a Super 8 camera when he was 7 years old. Long before his uncle wrote the book that put the McCourts on the literary map, Conor had a special feeling for the family's history, and the present desire to document it. He cut his teeth listening to his father, a well-known actor and raconteur, and his Uncle Frank trade anecdotes about life in Limerick, an informal process that evolved into the two-man show "A Couple of Blackguards." At 12, Conor was an usher for the show when it was performed at the Village Gate, then several years later, he filmed it as a student project when he was an undergraduate at New York University.

"Storytelling has always been a

part of my family," Conor said recently over a cup of coffee at Merchant's on Columbus Avenue, near his apartment and the offices of his film company, Romeo & Juliet Productions. "So in a way, this whole thing with Frank's book doesn't surprise me — that it's touched so many people."

To hear Frank talk, Conor is the heir-apparent storyteller in the McCourt clan. "I call him the archivist," Frank said, chatting before their appearance together on ABC's "Good Morning America" recently. "He always had an eye for character, the essence of eccentricity. You couldn't send him out to the street as a kid without him coming back with some story or other. Oh, he could make me claw myself with pleasure."

The scraps of Super 8 film from Conor's childhood and his version of "A Couple of Blackguards" are essential ingredients of "The McCourts of Limerick," but it was a trip that he took to Belfast at 17 to find his grandfather Malachy Sr., that gave his film its focus. With the exception of a two-week trip to the United States in the late 1950's (Malachy Sr.'s failed attempt to reconcile with Angela), there had been little contact between father and sons. "My father was still mad at his father," Conor said, "but when Angela died, it affected me. It was important for me to see my grandfather before he died, and to document him if I could."

Despite the fact that Conor's Super 8 had broken down and he had to rely on a tape recorder and the few shots he had left on an Instamatic, Malachy Sr. became a strong, bitter-sweet presence in the one-hour video that Conor ended up creating last year for friends and family — and anyone else who wanted to pay \$24.95 for a copy.

Given the ways that Conor's video overlapped with and occasionally illuminated his uncle's book, numerous Irish-Americans suggested that he find a way to convert it into a more professional product, and offered to help him, often as a labor of love. It was almost as if these people were eager to prolong the rush of self-discovery brought on by Frank's book — or perhaps they saw "Angela's Ashes" as a gift they somehow hoped to reciprocate.

"As soon as I heard about Conor's film I was hooked," said Greg Dougherty, an owner of Homestead, the film-editing company that dismantled "The McCourts of Limerick" and put it back together again frame by frame. "I'd read 'Angela's Ashes' and it meant a lot to me. I grew up poor and Irish on a farm in Wisconsin — and Catholic to boot. I related to it on so many levels."



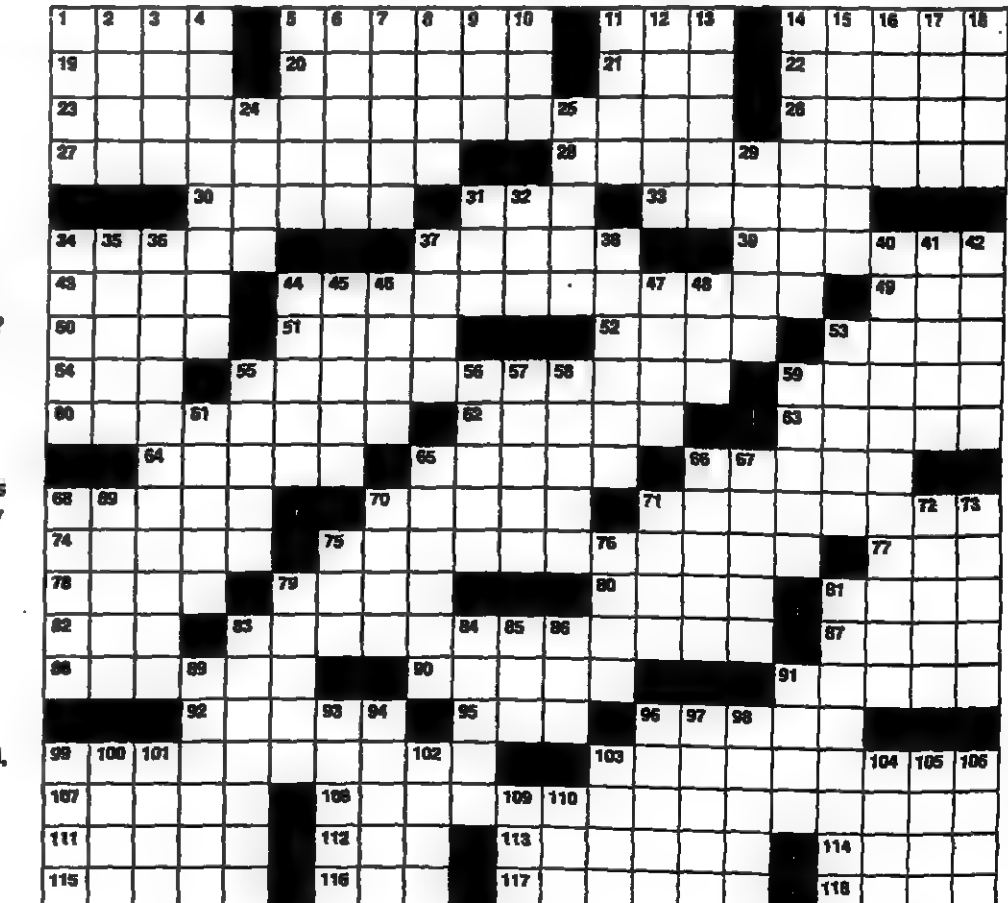
Conor McCourt filming Frank McCourt, author of "Angela's Ashes."

CLOTHES CALL

BY MICHAEL S. MAURER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- 1 Kindergarten stuff
- 5 Deduce
- 11 Like some socks
- 14 Outdoes
- 18 Loser in an upset
- 20 Part of the iris bordering the pupil
- 21 Implant
- 22 Grammar subject
- 23 Dancer's apparel?
- 26 Money substitute
- 27 Preacher's apparel?
- 28 Factory worker's apparel?
- 30 Florida's — National Forest
- 31 "Cheers" setting
- 32 Start of many criminal case names
- 34 The universe on day one
- 37 Unexpected blows
- 39 Actor Peter et al.
- 43 Home, to Hans
- 44 Psychiatrist's apparel?
- 49 Brutally dismiss
- 50 Suffix with disk
- 51 Kansas town
- 52 Amount to be raised, maybe
- 53 A regular type
- 54 Cable network, briefly
- 55 Miner's apparel?
- 60 Burns's partner
- 61 "Ditto"
- 62 Send
- 63 Earthy deposits
- 64 Connors
- 65 Saki, really
- 66 Author Marsh
- 68 Separates, in a way
- 70 Now
- 71 Election time
- 74 — as a pig
- 75 Projectionist's apparel?
- 77 One of the 13 org. colonies
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- 79 Apt family name in "The Wizard of Oz"
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- 95 Govt. intelligence org.
- 96 Meeting room staple
- 99 Referee's apparel?
- 103 Pro athlete's apparel?
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- 111 Compact matter



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- 1 1956 Peck role
- 2 Island south of Borneo
- 3 Plagiarize
- 4 Free
- 5 Nero's successor
- 6 Dizzy
- 7 Edison contemporary
- 8 Holter's partner
- 9 Polar worker
- 10 Switch
- 11 Fed. watchdog
- 12 Opportunities, so to speak
- 13 Resided
- 14 1956 Marilyn Monroe film
- 15 Collectible Dutch print
- 16 Hindu garment
- 17 Letters of rejoicing
- 18 Library Card
- 19 Sign-Up Mo.
- 24 Gumshoes
- 25 Sealy competitor
- 28 Ivy League
- 31 Fella

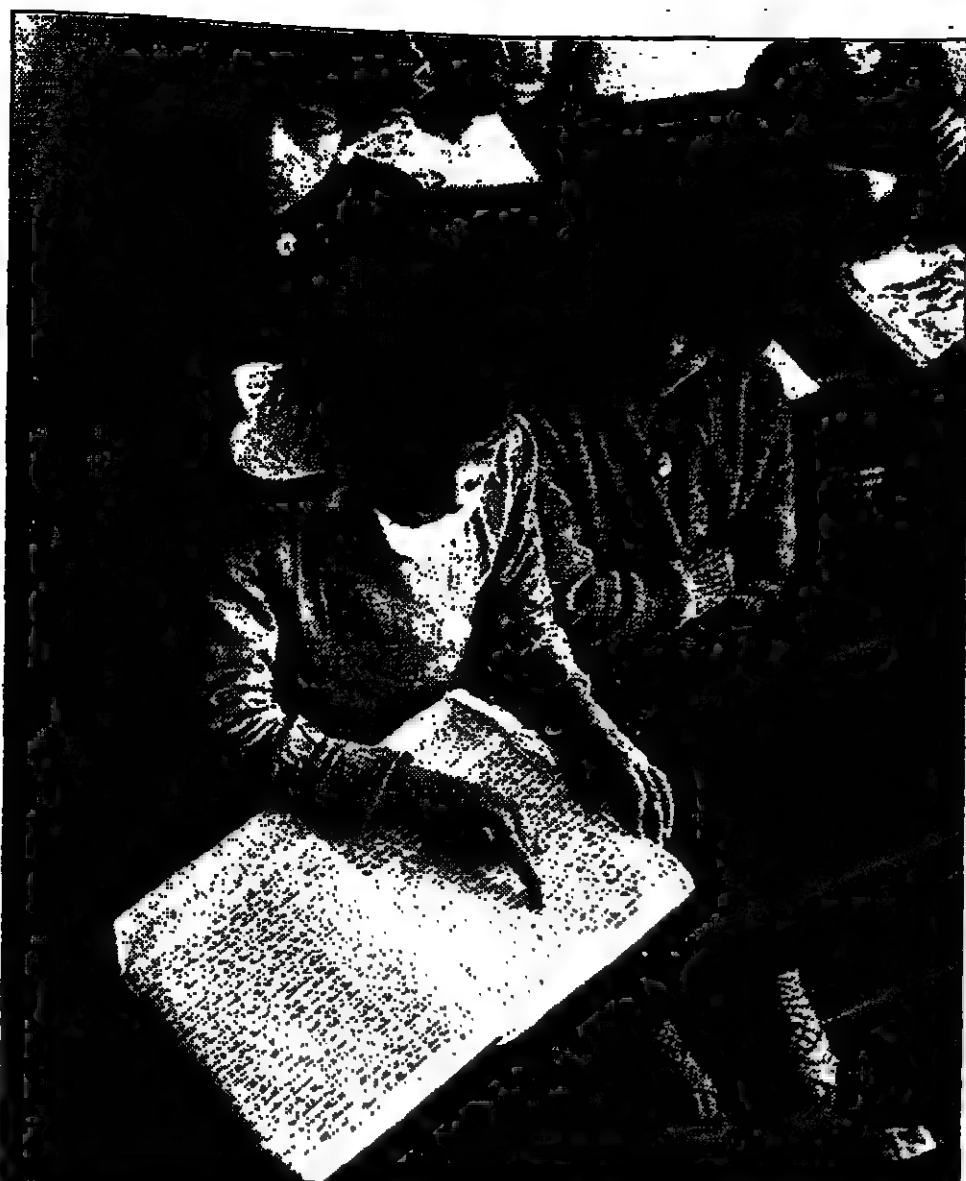
- 32 "Lay Dying"
- 34 Castle locale
- 35 Kind of yoga
- 36 Mechanic's apparel?
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- 38 Become suddenly aware
- 39 Engineer's apparel?
- 41 Shine
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- 48 Paper size: Abbr.
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- 71 One of the Monkees
- 72 Nasty one
- 73 Longtime G.M. chief
- 75 Evil, to Yves

- 76 1884 literary hero, informally
- 79 Physicist Ohm
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- 83 Son's designation, with "the"
- 84 Hollywood's B. D. and Anna May
- 85 Certain H.S. tears
- 86 Good bond rating
- 89 Yankee
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- 94 Ails

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- 97 "Men in Black" remake
- 98 River at Lyon
- 99 Malt liquor yeast
- 100 South Seas adventure story
- 101 Delete
- 102 Onetime athletic org.
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- 105 1971 Grammy song — "No Sunshine"
- 106 Child welfare grps.
- 109 It's got your no.
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

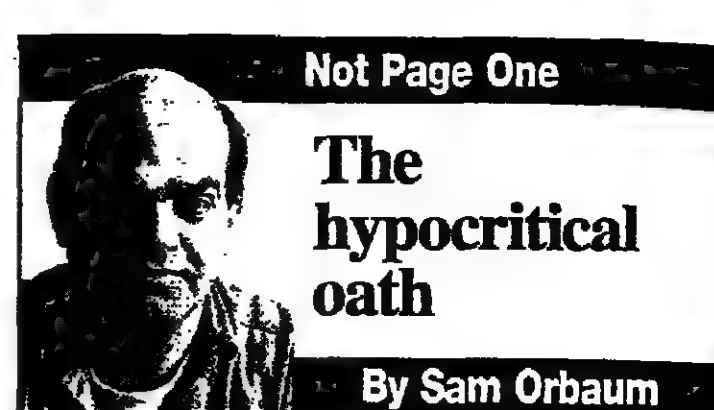
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 Labels: TERN AND MESSING
 Labels: FLAPPER WAVE GORROW
 Labels: LESTERS SNEPHEROSPLIS
 Labels: BARN ALICE TONE
 Labels: UNSOLEARYSCOV
 Labels: COME AMOT TREE NEMA
 Labels: APOSTLESCREED CHENURS
 Labels: REDTAPES USA LATERAL
 Labels: PREACH PIS ROAR PSU
 Labels: ARBO WHISTLERGROTHEN
 Labels: SPAS SCOUT OASIS PRY
 Labels: SPAS SCOUT OASIS PRY
 Labels: ARBO WHISTLERGROTHEN
 Labels: CONFINE LUBES TULANE
 Labels: SWEATER GAIED SPEWES



Jewish children can still learn Hebrew in Teheran as they did 30 years ago (above), but nowadays Jewish schools have Moslem principals.



Since the Islamic revolution, all women — including Jews — are compelled to conform to the Islamic dress code in public.



Not Page One

The hypocritical oath

By Sam Orbaum

Them racist Jew doctors at Hadassah Hospital booted out all its Palestinian patients as revenge for the latest terrorist bombing.

It must be true, because a politician said so.

Shame on you, Hadassah. Thank you, Riyad Za'atou, for confirming such a terrible thing.

Someone a bit more cynical than I might suggest the politician is lying.

But this guy's a health minister, the health minister of all the Palestinians, which must mean he knows the unbelievable-but-true evils done to his own people. If you have any further reason to doubt this gentleman, it may help to know he confirmed this charge from his hospital bed. At Hadassah.

Outside his window, he must have seen a wicked Jewish doctor banishing all the Palestinians from the hospital grounds.

The claim was originally made by another source we cannot possibly doubt, a Palestinian university — Bir Zeit, a world-famous source of knowledge and fact. On Bir Zeit's web site, the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment said, on August 7: "In a serious and racist precedent, the Hadassah Ein Kerem administration expelled all Palestinian patients from the hospital after the bombings in West Jerusalem."

The report goes on to cite three such cases, including a woman kicked out of intensive care, and a man with a severe spinal infection "forced to hire a taxi and leave as quickly as possible."

Quite a formidable alliance of truth: a human rights group, a university, a health minister.

On the other hand, we have the claim of Prof. Shmuel Penchas that they lied. Well, what do you expect from a man who runs a racially prejudiced hospital?

Hey, I'll bet Penchas himself was involved in the selection of Arabs for collective punishment. Jew doctors are like that.

So who are we to believe? I popped by the hospital last week to check it out. I took one step past the front door, and already I could see there was a whiff of racism to the place. They made me open my bag, to check that I wasn't an Arab terrorist bringing in hand grenades. What could bring them to presume such a danger?

The ultimate proof that Hadassah has kicked out sick Arabs is scattered throughout the Ein Kerem hospital: the presence of sick Arabs. It's a sick trick: keep a few of 'em around, for show.

Sure. What do you bet they're all from Gaza, real pitiful cases, and they all claim to love Hadassah? All we need is to hear one of them say that, to know we're being duped.

Guess what? First guy I spoke to: an Arab. From Gaza. What're you here for, I asked. "Leukemia."

Said his name is Ahmed, that he thanked God for Hadassah Hospital. "I don't want to say it's the best hospital in the world. But one of the best, definitely."

Perfect. I mentioned his health minister's complaint, and Ahmed looked at me like I was crazy. He couldn't find a bad word to say about anyone in the hospital, but on the other hand, he didn't volunteer a good word about his minister, either.

Just what I thought. I'm sure if I had informed Ahmed that these Jew doctors threatened to transplant AIDS into him instead of bone marrow unless he said all the right things, Ahmed would have denied it.

Ahmed's roommate is named Mahmud. He's from Nablus. Another Palestinian kept around for show, undoubtedly brainwashed by Penchas's conniving Jew doctors. When Mahmud heard that he was supposed to have been thrown out because of his race, he laughed derisively. "Nobody told me to leave. They're taking good care of me here. Did they really say those things? Ridiculous, ridiculous."

But sure enough, just as we finished chatting, guess what? The hospital disconnected his TV and told him to leave.

So, Mahmud: you're kicked out. No, he said, smiling happily: "I'm allowed to go home."

As he left, he bestowed a silent prayer on Hadassah for saving his life.

WE HAVE become accustomed to outrageous lies in a one-way propaganda logomachy. It's a tactic the Palestinians didn't invent. They're not even good at it, but it doesn't take much these days to spread malicious lies to a dumb public. The benchmark of credibility is shamelessness.

They have made lame claims before, laughably idiotic accusations no half-wit would believe. But with this, they have gone too far. This isn't merely intellectual dishonesty: it is profound immorality.

It would be easier to accuse Mother Teresa of racist exclusionism than Hadassah. Penchas's hospital holds a mythic awe not just among Palestinians but throughout the Arab world. If one has but one good word to say about Israel, that word will always be "Hadassah."

Jewish doctors treat Arab patients with the same dedication as Hadassah's Arab doctors treat Jews. The place is a model of integration, of harmony, of indifference to difference.

It doesn't have to be drummed into staffers: it is basic to the culture of this mini-city, where some 15,000 people come and go on an average day.

Well, you could bring in an Arab who's just blown to bits a dozen or two Jews, and the people at Hadassah will do what they must to save his life.

They may not want to, but they will obey the Oath.

But... what am I going on about? I've told you nothing about Hadassah's reputation that isn't universally known.

Sadly, when a human-rights group, a university, and a minister fire off an accusation, some poor spokesman has to dignify the comments with a response.

Never mind what he'd like to say. That would be something like what Hadassah's spokesman, Yossi Shoval, told me afterward: "It is a pity we should have to regard this defamation in an apologetic manner," he said, shaking his head in disbelief at the perfidy.

"But I had to produce statistics. I had to prove our hands are clean. It was like having to prove we didn't kill Jesus."

He was referring, of course, to the "first Palestinian."

Coming soon: Why Hadassah Hospital killed JFK.

Behind the veil: Jews in Iran

Despite Iran's strong enmity toward Jerusalem, some 30,000 Jews continue to live among Moslem countrymen and practice their faith, Ann Lordo reports from Teheran

Children are learning Hebrew in Teheran. Seated at tables in a synagogue, boys and girls diligently copy the alphabet into workbooks. A bright-eyed five-year-old proudly announces "aleph," as her pencil draws the first Hebrew letter.

Mothers sit at a long table nearby. Each holds a worn copy of a Hebrew prayer book. They take their turn reading aloud the prayers of their ancestors.

"The Hebrew language is an entrance to understanding Torah," says Houshang Elyassian, the 58-year-old manager of the largest synagogue in Teheran. "They have to learn how to speak, how to write... If they do not, they will not exist in the future. They must continue this circle."

The Iranian Jewish community is among the oldest in the Middle East. Most of the Jews of Syria, Iraq and other countries hostile to Israel have long since fled. But despite Iran's strong enmity toward Jerusalem, Jews here continue to live among their Moslem countrymen and practice their faith.

They worship in 40 synagogues across the country. They operate schools, bury their dead in Jewish cemeteries, perform marriages under a *chuppah*, dine at a kosher restaurant, own a hospital and nursing home.

Iran's Jewish population numbers about 30,000 people, down from 67,000 in 1970. Two factors encouraged emigration: the establishment of Israel in 1948, and the fall of the American-backed regime of Shah Reza Pahlavi in 1979.

The Islamic revolution led by Ayatollah Khomeini ushered in an era of drastic social change.

Regardless of their religion, all women are compelled to conform

to the Islamic dress code — the tent-like swath of material known as a "chador" or a head scarf and long coat that covers everything from the hairline to the curve of the ankle.

If Islamic rule has restricted certain areas of life, it has strengthened some Jews' commitment to live more observantly.

For 18 years, the Jewish women of Iran have been so attired in public. But in private, at their religious celebrations, they are free to dispense with the rules of Islam.

Jews drink wine at a bar mitzva. Women dance with the father of the bride at a wedding — whether they are related or not. Their sons can discuss a Persian poet with a meeting of a Jewish youth group.

If Islamic rule has restricted certain areas of life, it has strengthened

some Jews' commitment to live more observantly.

"It got more important after the revolution," says Nahid Elyassian, who observes kashrut, walks to synagogue on the Sabbath, and sends her children to Jewish schools. "My parents didn't feel the need to send me to Jewish schools. But I feel the need."

In Teheran, there are four Jewish elementary schools, four secondary schools, and two high schools. But the Iranian ministry of education administers the schools, the principals are Moslem, and the only Hebrew spoken is during the four hours of theology taught weekly by a member of the Jewish society.

At the 110-bed Jewish hospital, most patients are Moslem.

"We Jews are very proud to provide for our fellow Moslem citizens," says Parviz Yashayaei, a film director who oversees the Jewish Society of Teheran. "The society is located on the third floor of a nondescript building that also houses an Iranian tax office. A mezuza is attached to the door post."

"Although after the revolution there was this hot subject of Israel and its relationship with Iran, from the religious aspect of the government, they have always been extra kind and considerate of the synagogues," says Yashayaei.

He presents a visitor with a letter sent to the head of the Iranian community from president-elect Muhammad Khatami: "I hope that with the help of God and the friendliness and cooperation of all the followers of the godly religions, we will be more successful in achieving the high goals of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Although Jews freely practice their religion, lay members lead the congregations. The last ordained rabbi who worked in Teheran left several years ago and has not been replaced. But all that is necessary

for services is a *minyán*.

The Jews have their own seat in parliament — the member takes the oath of office using the Hebrew Bible. But their lives are affected in other ways because they live in an

There are 40 synagogues across the country... The last ordained rabbi who worked in Teheran left several years ago and has not been replaced.

Islamic theocracy. Jews cannot hold a top position in the government. They can advance only so far in the civil service.

They faced similar restrictions before the revolution, Yashayaei says. And yet, he says, the real problems facing Jews may occur in the day-to-day dealings with the bureaucracy. Jews may have a harder time receiving permission to publish a book or having a speedy trial because of a Moslem's "own grudge, attitude or prejudice," he says.

In the past, Jews had difficulty obtaining permission to travel outside the country. But Yashayaei says, "Now it's OK, unless they have personal files or problems, which can happen for a Moslem or anyone." But a trip to Israel can result in the confiscation of their Iranian passport.

At the Jewish Women's

Organization of Teheran, Farangis Hassidim briefs club members about the international women's forum held in Beijing. Hassidim attended the conference as part of her country's delegation and spoke about Iranian Jewish women.

Although they cannot leave Iran without their husband's permission — a rule of law — the Jewish women said they were better off than Islamic women. "We have more freedoms really," says one club member. But when a visitor inquires about Israel, the response is "We don't talk politics."

"Jews are quite comfortable here," says Nahid Elyassian, 46, mother of three children. "We don't get top jobs in government but we are quite free living, in our synagogues, in our prayers."

On a recent Friday, as dusk colors the Teheran sky a warm shade of mauve, members of a downtown synagogue arrive for evening services.

On the way in, they pass a picture of the late Ayatollah Khomeini stenciled on a wall. Women in head scarves and long coats take a seat on the left side of the synagogue. Men don skullcaps they pluck from a basket at the entrance and head for a seat on the right side.

An older man chants a prayer and invokes the name of Jerusalem. Another voice joins in, then a third and a fourth. At the back of the synagogue, a pair of Persian carpets hangs alongside the cabinet that houses the Torah scrolls. The inscription in the silk threads proclaims in Hebrew: "This is a house of God." As the sun sets and the sky darkens to the color of smoke, about 600 people have filled the synagogue.

This night, as they have done for the past 10 years, the children gather on a platform in the center of the synagogue. Their young voices rise up in prayer. They recite the verse earnestly and proudly. Their youthful enthusiasm stirs the crowd as they sing. "Come, my beloved, to meet the bride: let us welcome the Sabbath." (The Baltimore Sun)

Ministry of Trade and Industry

Salts Liquids Line Tender

- The Ministry of Trade and Industry invites offers from contractors and developers for the construction, operation and maintenance of a Salts Liquids extraction line from industrial plants in the Western Galilee region. The installation will include: A terminal, a land conducting line and an outlet line to the sea. The tender is in accordance with the B.O.T. system (Build, Operate, and Transfer).
- The tender documents are available against a non-refundable payment of NIS 750 at the offices of the H.P.T. Company, 96 Ussishkin St., Tel Aviv, Sun-Thurs, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. by appointment (call 03-5442076).
- Eligible for participation are experienced contractors or developers listed in the Contractors' Register in accordance with the Contractor's Registration Law (1989) and who have the qualifications detailed in the tender documents. Contractors should be licensed in the two following categories: Classification B-400: Category: Sewerage, Drainage and Water - Class 5 Classification B-500: Category: Pumps and Turbines - Class 4 Candidates should submit official copies of these licenses valid for the date of submission.
- Owing to the installation requirements as outlined in section 1, the candidate must show proof that he has the financial means for undertaking this tender.
- Consortiums of two or more corporations may participate in the tender.
- In order to purchase the tender documents, valid authorization from the Income Tax authorities or an accountant must be shown attesting that the purchaser keeps accounts in accordance with the Income Tax and the VAT regulations.
- A tour for contractors will take place on Sunday, September 21, 1997 at 11 a.m. Meeting point: Head Office of MLOUOT, Hafia Bay, near Kibutz Kfar Masaryk.
- Bids must be placed personally (in an unmarked envelope) in the Tender Box at the offices of the Industrial Cooperation Authority, Beit Hatzafra, 29 Hamered St., Tel Aviv, floor 13, rooms 1301 - 1310, on Thursday, November 20, 1997 by 2 p.m. The bid should include a NIS 850,000 bank guarantee.
- The Ministry of Trade and Industry is not obligated to accept the lowest or any other bid.

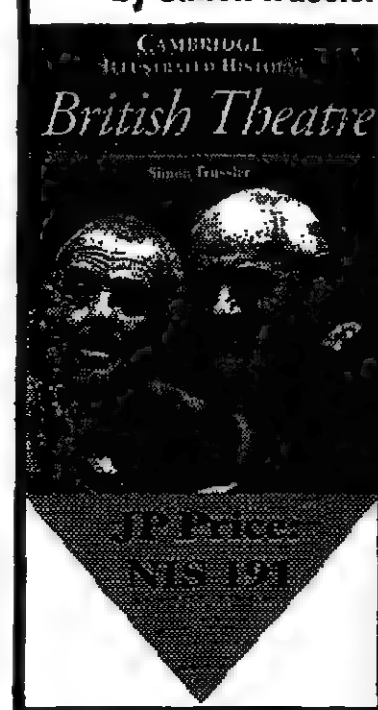
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The Cambridge Illustrated History of BRITISH THEATRE

by Simon Trussler

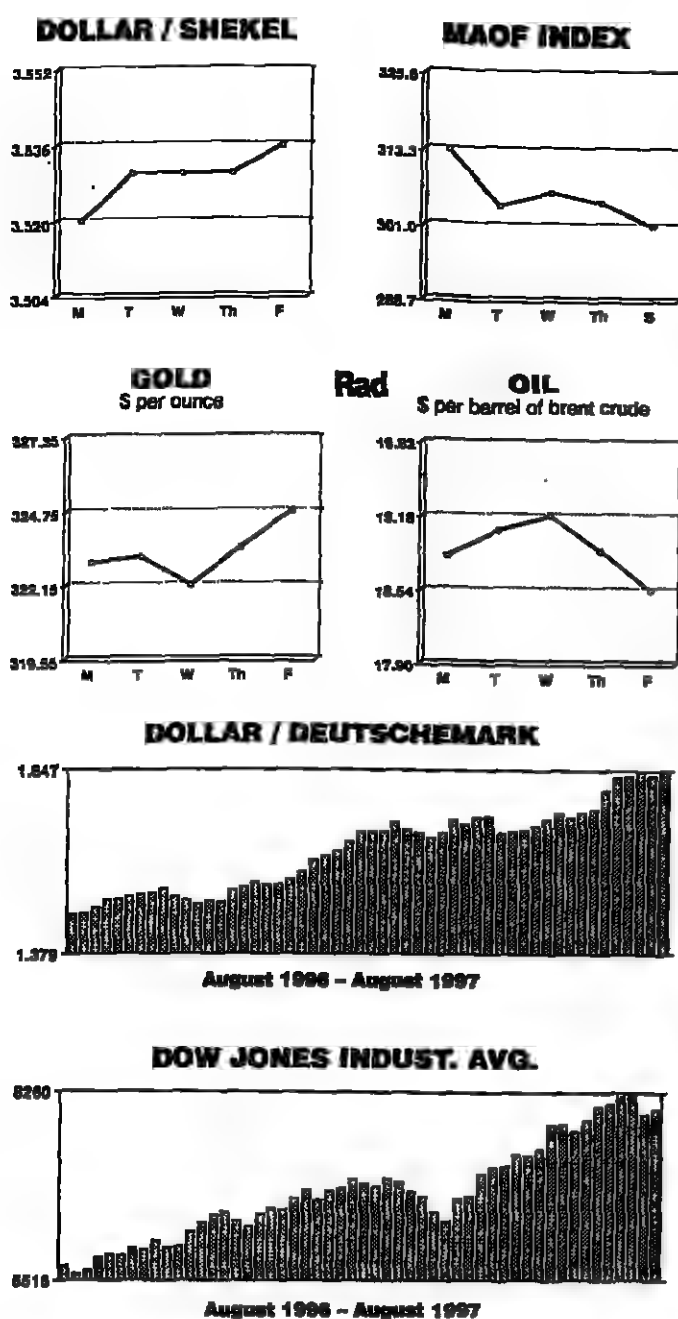


Lavishly illustrated in the best tradition of the Cambridge University Press, this 404 pp. volume presents a social and cultural history of Britain as much as a description of actors, directors, designers and authors. From the early Middle Ages to contemporary times and themes, the author describes early forms of drama and religious ceremony and weaves the history of social and political forces which shaped theatre. Selected contents include: The Era of the Outdoor Playhouse; The Restoration Theatre; Romanticism and Realism; The War and the Long Weekend; Theatre and the Marketplace. Handover; color and black-and-white prints, photographs, sketches, playbills; Chronology; Glossary; Who's Who; Select Bibliography; Index.

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MARKETS

in brief



Bynet, BGU to open R&D center

Computer communications company Bynet and Ben-Gurion University will open a research and development center for BGU graduates near Omer.

Computer company NSI, which works together with the international firm Sun Computers, has also expressed willingness to open a branch at BGU and to hire graduates in the computer sciences.

Motorola launched a development branch at Omer's industrial park and is negotiating with BGU to open a micro-controller lab for communications based on advanced components.

Engineering graduates of the new department will receive a bachelor's of science degree, the only one of its kind in Israel in the field of communications systems engineering. Until now, it has been granted only in advanced telecommunications countries abroad, and only as a master's degree. Students will be able to specialize in the information superhighway, satellite communications, operation of networks, and multimedia.

Judy Siegel

2nd quarter jobless rate 7.6%

Central bank interest-rate call today to reflect high CPIs

Jerusalem Post Staff

Unemployment has risen during the second quarter to a three-year high of 7.6 percent of the workforce, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The number of jobless has risen by 29,000 to 168,000 on a weekly average, thus lifting by 1.2 percentage points the rate of joblessness from 6.4 percent of the workforce in last year's second quarter.

In all, the civilian workforce has totalled a weekly average of

2,197 million people, an increase of 2 percent in comparison over last year. Of those, 61.1 percent were males 15 and older, after having registered a level of 62.1 percent during last year's April-June period.

Meanwhile, the overall population has expanded by 2.6 percent, while the share of the workforce in the overall population has risen from 53.4 percent to 53.8 percent.

The number of non-foreign and non-Palestinian workers has totalled 2,042 million on a weekly average.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Israel is expected to announce today its decision concerning the next month's short-term interest rates.

While Governor Jacob Frenkel has recently said the unemployment situation would play a role in the decision-making process, analysts expect the decision to be dominated by the last two months' relatively high inflation increases, 1.1 percent in June and 1 percent in July.

The bank's main concern is to stem the pace of price acceleration, which currently stands at

roughly 10.4 percent, while the government's official annual target was set at 7 percent-10 percent.

Labor Minister Eli Yishai yesterday said that if not reversed, the unemployment situation will ultimately sap all the benefits the jobless receive.

Frenkel has said that budgetary expansion would do little for the unemployed, since it would merely accelerate inflation and thus thrust an anti-growth burden on the shoulders of would-be, job-creating investors.

Barak phone service: No closure plans

By JUDY SIEGEL

Long-distance telephone service provider Barak's managing director Avi Patir yesterday denied reports that the company is considering closing, but conceded that it is losing money, even though it is second, behind Bezeq International, in the volume of calls.

Patir denied being quoted as saying that Barak is thinking of calling it quits, and company sources said the quote in *Ha'aretz* resulted from a "misunderstanding."

Golden Lines, the third competitor in this newly de-monopolized industry, is reportedly significantly behind, but the Communications Ministry has not yet disclosed the relative market shares of the three companies.

Ministry spokeswoman Ayala Bar said last night that Director-General Daniel Rosencow will consult with the three companies and get permission for disclosure of such "commercial secrets." The relative market shares are important because when Bezeq International drops below certain figures, it is allowed by the ministry to cut its minimum rates.

Barak argued that it was surprised by the rapid reduction in BI's share in the market, allowing it to offer even lower rates. At the same time, Barak must pay Bezeq - BI's parent company - higher "access fees" for calls going abroad; these total 17 cents a minute for each incoming and outgoing call. The lower prices are, the more expensive these access fees, Barak says.

Bar said that the volume of international calls has significantly expanded since competition began in the first week of July, but that the ministry does not yet have comparison figures.

"In no other country where competition was introduced has the process been implemented so swiftly and without hitches," she said.



Smoking dilemma

Chinese President Jiang Zemin addresses the 10th World Conference on Tobacco or Health in Beijing yesterday. The conference was attended by 1,500 health experts from more than 70 countries. Smoking is banned in Chinese trains, planes and public buildings, and hundreds of officials have signed pledges not to smoke or to let others light up in their offices. But in an ironic twist, the Chinese government also owns the world's biggest tobacco company. It produces 1.7 trillion cigarettes a year - three times the total US output - and supplies 10 percent of state revenues.

(AP)

Foreign tourists' hotel stays down 10% for Jan.-July period

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Occupancy by foreign tourists in hotels here dropped by 10 percent during the first seven months of this year compared to the same period last year, according to figures published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The bureau also said that in May, June and July there had been a modest upward swing of 1.5 percent a month in hotel stays by foreign tourists, but noted that this was

before last month's suicide bombing in Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market.

Avi Rosental, director of the Hotel Association said yesterday that he hoped that the bombing and the recent hostilities near the northern border would not cause incoming tourism to drop, but he feared that it would.

"There are already signs of a drop in tourism," Rosental said.

However, both the bureau and the Hotel Association noted that as the number of

foreign tourists staying in Israeli hotels has gone down, the number of Israelis staying in local hostels has increased. According to the bureau, there were 10 percent more Israeli bed-nights during the first seven months of 1997 than the previous year, bringing the total number of bed-nights by locals and foreigners to 9.2 million, 1 percent lower than last year's figure.

Hotel occupancy by Israelis has grown steadily, with the 1996 figure about 10 percent higher than those of 1995. In fact,

Rosental noted, July was a record month for the number of Israelis staying in local hotels. The month, he said, marked an increase in bed nights of 18 percent, although with the drop in incoming tourism, the number was still 7 percent lower than during July 1995.

At the same time, hotel occupancy during the January through July period dropped from an average of 67 percent in 1995 and 1996 to 61 percent, because the number of hotel rooms increased by about 5 percent.

BT, MCI agree on 16% price cut

By COLLEEN MCLEROY

LONDON (Bloomberg) - British Telecommunications Plc will cut the price it pays for MCI Communications Corp. by 16 percent as the companies try to salvage the world's biggest international phone acquisition.

BT will pay \$18.16 billion in cash and stock for the 80 percent of MCI it doesn't own, down from \$21.52 billion under the old terms. MCI holders will get 0.375 American depositary share in the combined company and \$7.75 in cash for each MCI share. They would have

gotten 0.54 ADR and \$6 under the old terms. BT will also assume \$4.3 billion in debt, which didn't change.

The companies incorporated the changes in an amended agreement filed today with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition to the announced price revisions, the amendment contained new language that said BT and MCI are changing the vote required for approval of the acquisition. The amendment also contained a clause that would require BT to pay \$750 million to MCI if the transaction fails under certain conditions.

MCI investors are dissatisfied, yet have little choice other than

accede to the reduced price in exchange for BT's financial backing, which MCI needs to cover wider-than-expected losses in its local business.

More troubling is that MCI misjudged prospects in its home market and failed to disclose its financial problems until it was too late for a less costly solution.

"Hardly anybody is coming out looking good," said Robert Wilkes, an analyst at Brown Brothers Harriman. "This will be a very interesting Harvard Business School case study." The change in terms also will cost the merged company valuable time in the \$200 billion-a-year US phone market, where rivals are eager to

pounce on new opportunities in wireless, local and long distance.

Shareholders from both companies must vote on the takeover again, around November, and some analysts forecast a close vote. In the last vote on April 2, 77 percent of MCI holders approved the acquisition.

The companies expect to complete the agreement by January, about two months later than planned.

Under the original terms of the acquisition, BT said that the agreement would have to be approved by three-quarters of its shareholders. In the revised agreement, the language was changed to a majority of shareholders.

Cincinnati Bell buys 20% stake in Wiztec

By JENNIFER FRIEDMAN

CBIS, a subsidiary of US telecommunications company Cincinnati Bell Inc., has announced the purchase of a 20 percent stake in Wiztec Solutions Ltd., a Herziya-based software developer.

CBIS, a maker of billing software used by cable and satellite television providers, will purchase 1.3 million Wiztec shares at \$8.50 each, for a total of \$11 million.

CBIS has a two-year option to buy a controlling interest in Wiztec. Parent company Formula Systems Ltd. will hold 42 percent of Wiztec's shares following the transaction.

The deal with CBIS, a former competitor, underscores Wiztec's technological leadership and gives the company a major marketing boost, said Wiztec CFO Mike Laor.

"For us this is a big step forward," Laor said. "We've made quite a few steps in the past, but we were lacking a big name behind us."

As a result of the deal, CBIS will be able to take advantage of Wiztec's strong marketing channels in the Far East and Wiztec will be able to benefit from CBIS's North American sales network, said Laor.

In addition to purchasing Wiztec shares, both companies have agreed to invest \$2 million each to jointly develop a customer service and billing system for the cable, broadband, and satellite markets.

According to a marketing and licensing agreement that the companies signed, CBIS will market Wiztec's Wizard line of products. CBIS provides customer service and billing software for the communications industry.

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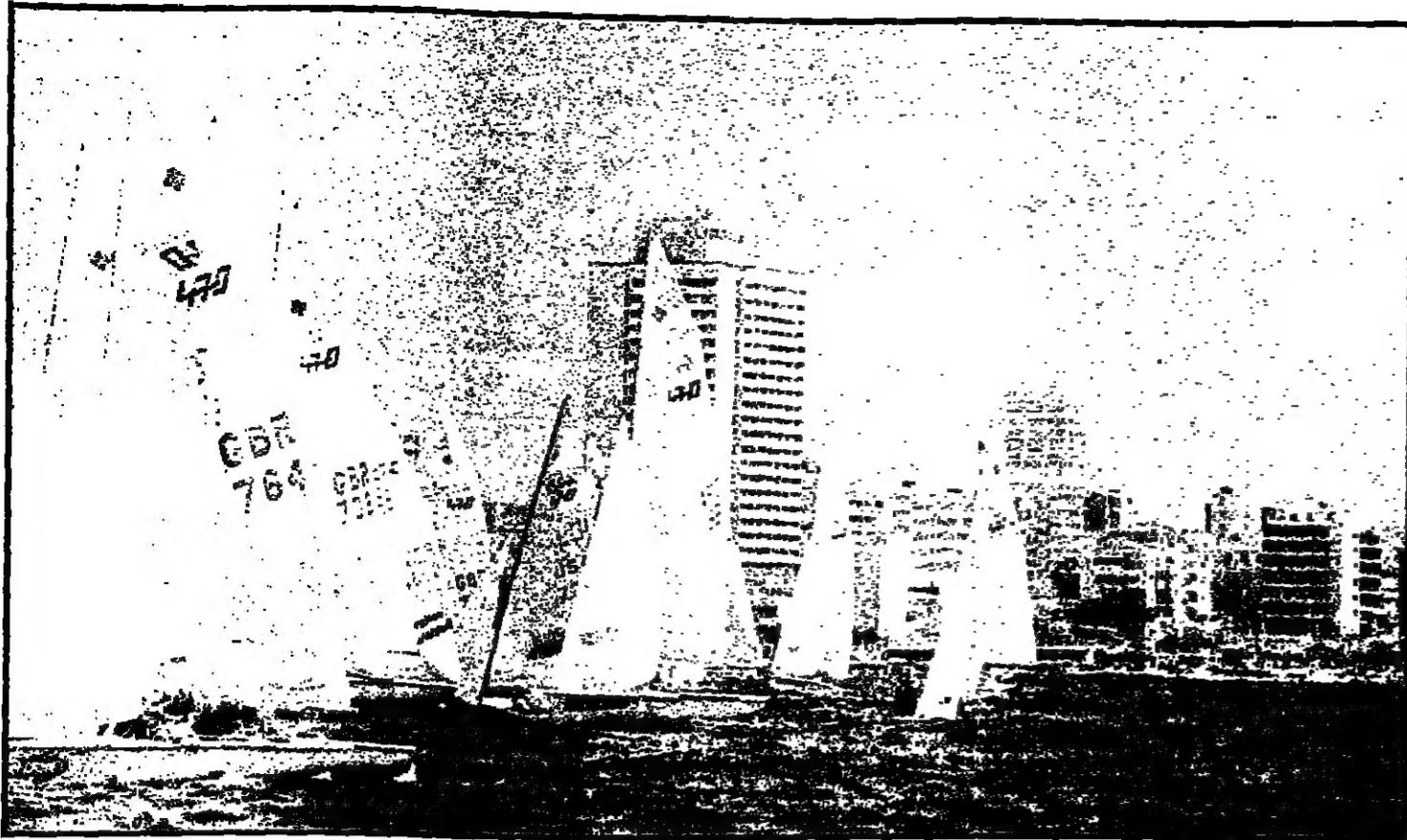
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ANCHORS AWEIGH - World Sailing Championships take place off the Tel Aviv coast.

(Israel Sun / Dana Shatzman)

Israelis Kalach, Schwartz lead sailing group; Shantal duo in 3rd

By HEATHER CHAIT

Light to medium winds accompanied the World Sailing Championships (470-division) which began yesterday off Tel Aviv's beaches. Eighty-six boats from 25 countries are competing in the event which will continue until the weekend.

After three sails in the first round of the men's heats yesterday, the Israeli team of Ze'ev Kalach and David Schwartz are leading their group, followed by Slovenia's Tomaz Copi and Mitja Margon. Israel's top

sailing duo, Nir and Ran Shental, are in third place. The world's No. 1 pair, Andreas Kosmatopoulos and Kostas Trigonis, are lying in 10th spot only.

The bronze medalists from Atlanta, Yegor Braslavets and Igor Matvienko lead in Group B, followed by Finland's Petri Leskinen and Kristian Heinila.

In third place is another local duo, Eli Zuckerman and Sa'ar Behr. After today's last preliminary round, only half of the 57 men's teams will proceed to the 12 final round sails.

The women's final sails began yesterday; and after two sails, the French pair of Florence Le Brun and Marine Charon are in the lead.

In second place is the British team of Helene Lucas and Maggie Beech with Nicola Birkner and Wibke Buelle from Germany third.

Israel's only female entrants, Anat Fabrikant and Shani Kedmi, are in fifth place after the first day's sails.

Team captain Shah Behr was pleased with the first day's results. "The aim of the men is to move into the final," he said, "while our women's team is doing quite well already."

Vialli hits four as Chelsea win 6-0

LONDON (Reuters) - Italian striker Gianluca Vialli scored four goals yesterday as Chelsea bounced back from their opening day defeat to thrash Barnsley 6-0 away in the Premier League.

Vialli, often on the bench last season, made the most of Ruud Gullit's decision to play him from the start ahead of Mark Hughes as the London side outclassed the newly-promoted Yorkshire club to record their best ever away win in

the top flight. Barnsley, playing at this level for the first time in their 99-year league history, made most of the early running but fell behind in the 25th minute when Dan Petrescu seized on a weak headed clearance to score with a cool finish.

Gustavo Poyet made it 2-0 in the 38th when he was left unmarked six meters from goal. Barnsley keeper Dave Watson parried his header, but the Uruguayan reacted

quickly to scramble the loose ball across the line. There was nothing messy about Chelsea's superb third goal, however, scored by Vialli a minute before halftime.

Petrescu played a perfect 30m-pass into the path of the Italian who lashed it first time past a helpless Watson.

Vialli added the fourth in the 57th minute as again Watson saved the initial shot but the

Italian headed in the rebound. Eight minutes later, Dennis Wise slipped through a neat pass to set up Vialli for an easy finish from close range and his fourth and Chelsea's sixth came 10 minutes from time when the ball fell loose from a corner and he blasted a left foot shot into the empty net.

After losing on opening day, 3-2 to Coventry, Chelsea move to mid-table while Barnsley have lost two of three - both at home.

Israeli medley team finishes 5th at swimming c'ships

By HEATHER CHAIT and agencies

The Israeli team at the European Swimming Championships wound up the last day of competition with a fifth-place finish in the 4x100 medley event yesterday in Seville, Spain.

Their time, 3:43:65 was outside the record of 3:42:22 they had set at the heats of the Atlanta Olympics last year.

The Polish team who won the bronze medal yesterday had a time of just two-hundredths of a second faster than the Israeli record.

In the heats, the team of Yoav Bruck, Eytan Orbach, Vadim Alexeev and Eran Garumi clocked 3:44:78.

As the most successful European Championships ever for local swimming ended, accusations were already being leveled at the Sports Authority.

Zvi Rutter, a member of the Israel Swimming Association executive and current treasurer, claimed that of the NIS 258,000 promised by the Sports Authority for this year, not a cent has been received. This amount is less than the NIS 370,000 provided last year.

"We have coaches with the know-how and swimmers with talent, but we can't invest in them under these conditions," stated Rutter. He added that the combined annual budget of NIS 1m is "grossly insufficient."

Smith fails in bid for 3rd gold Triple Olympic gold medalist Michelle Smith finished the championships with two gold and two silver medals, taking her second silver in the 200-meter butterfly behind 19-year-old Spaniard Maria Pelaez.

Smith also said she will file libel lawsuits in the next few weeks against five newspapers.

Pelaez, from nearby Malaga, clocked a European best time this season of 2 minutes 10.25 seconds, two seconds faster than her previous best.

Smith led for the first 150m but wore down at the finish to get silver in 2:10.88. Mette Jacobsen of Denmark was third in 2:11.97.

Smith leaves her first big meet since last year's Olympics, where she won three golds and was tainted with unproven allegations that the times were drug-enhanced, with gold in the 400 individual medley and 200 freestyle, and silver in the 400 freestyle and yesterday's 200 butterfly.

The 27-year-old Irish swimmer had planned to race in five events, but pulled out of the 200 IM and 800 freestyle and lost her chance to match or surpass the record of four individual golds in the Euros set by former East German Ute Geweniger in 1981 and Hungary's Krisztina Egervári in 1993.

The drug controversy won't go away, Smith said. "I believe I have been defamed and it has taken away from my name and my reputation."

Entering these championships under the surname of her husband, Erik de Bruin, hasn't helped. De Bruin is a former Dutch shot put and discus thrower who just completed a four-year drug ban. It wasn't until she met Smith several years ago that she moved - in swimming middle-age - from a pedestrian to an elite swimmer.

She's also may have gotten on the wrong side of Dublin Sports Minister Jim McDaid. McDaid has decided not to hold a formal airport reception for her when she returns to Ireland.

Kipketer, Barmasai smash world records

COLOGNE (Reuters) - Wilson

Kipketer of Denmark and Kenya's Bernard Barmasai shattered the 800 and 3,000 meters steeplechase world records yesterday at the end of a remarkable week in athletics.

Kenyan-born Kipketer proved he was in a class of his own in the 800m by clocking one minute 41.11 seconds at the Cologne Grand Prix meeting, bettering his previous best mark of 1:41.24 set just 11 days earlier in Zurich.

Barmasai, the latest sensation in a long series of Kenyan steeplechase specialists, ran in 7:55.72, well inside the previous best mark of 7:59.08 clocked by compatriot Wilson Boit Kipketer, also in Zurich.

The two records came just two days after Kenyan Daniel Komen and Paul Tergat broke the world records for the 5,000- and the 10,000m in Brussels.

In the 800m, Kenyan-born Kipketer, who had broken Sebastian Coe's 16-year-old record in Switzerland, timed himself perfectly on a hot, still afternoon.

The 24-year-old world champion stayed safely in second place for the first 600m, leaving Kenyan Patrick Koechellah to set the pace. With 200m remaining, Kipketer kicked almost effortlessly, sprinting to the line under rapturous applause from the 30,000 spectators.

Koechellah was unable to react and came a distant second in 1:42.98 while South African Hezekiel Sepeng was third in 1:43.18.

Kipketer, who left Kenya for Denmark in 1990, missed last year's Olympics when his entry was blocked by the Kenyan federation because he was still awaiting Danish citizenship.

He enjoyed a tremendous start to the 1997 season, breaking the indoor world record twice at the indoor world championships last month in Paris before equalling Briton Coe's mark of 1:41.73 last month in Oslo.

He then won the world title this month in Athens.

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Johansson wins European Open

DUBLIN (Reuters) - Per-

Ulrik Johansson of Sweden stroled to a successful defense of his European Open golf title yesterday as Jose Maria Olazabal played himself into a position of automatic Ryder Cup qualification.

Johansson won by six strokes after a final three-hole play 69 for a 72-hole total of 267, at 21-under the best under-par total of any winner on the European Tour this season.

Olazabal, who barely made the halfway cut on Friday, compiled a superb seven-under-par 65 to share third place on 14 under par, one shot behind Englishman Peter Baker and level with Scotsman Raymond Russell.

He earned \$47,855 to advance above Irishman Padraig Harrington into the last place for automatic qualification for next month's Ryder Cup team with one event left, this week's BMW International Open in Munich.

He heads Harrington by just over \$22,000.

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SECRETARY,

Hammer vows to keep Reform out

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Incoming Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer yesterday made it quite clear that like his predecessor, Eli Suissa, he too would refuse to sign an appointment of a Reform Jew to be a member of a religious council, even if ordered to do so by the High Court.

Hammer, who is also education minister, took over the ministry as part of a rotation agreement between his own National Religious Party and Shas. The actual running of the ministry has been entrusted to two deputy ministers, MKs Arye Gamliel of Shas and Yigal Bibi of the NRP.

Hammer was referring to a recent High Court ruling which declared that Dr. Joyce Brenner, a member of the Reform movement, must become a member of the Netanya Religious Council and ordering the religious affairs minister to sign the appointment to that effect in *Reshumot*, the official gazette. The ruling had followed three earlier rulings all intended to ensure that Brenner be made a member of the council and all of which the ministry had managed to circumvent.

Both Suissa and Gamliel, who is responsible for the religious councils, had refused to sign the announcement and eventually Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did so as acting religious affairs minister. There had been speculation that Hammer, whose NRP is viewed as religious-

ly more liberal than Shas, might be more amenable to signing similar announcements regarding the appointment of Reform and Conservative Jews to the religious councils of Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Kiryat Tivon, where similar cases have been pending.

"The problem of the Reform is not that of a specific religious affairs minister," Hammer said. "The religious councils are connected to the chief rabbinate of the various cities. I definitely can't sign."

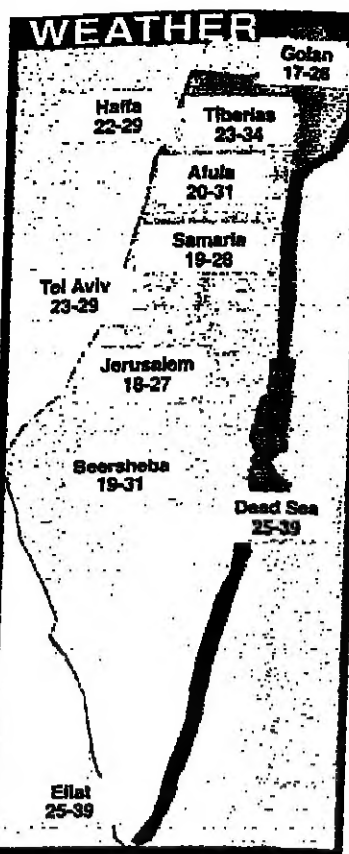
Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Center, said that the choice is not between having or not having Reform members on the religious councils, but between a democratic, law-abiding state and one in which the emasculation of court judgments becomes the norm.

"Not only will there be Reform members on religious councils, but all of Israeli society will be as the majority wants, a democratic state in which the majority rules," Regev said.

Hammer also visited Ashkenazi Chief Rabbis Yisrael Lan and Eliahu Bakshi-Doron, who expressed their concern that the burial societies have still not allocated land for those who are not recognized as Jews, although this had been ordered, in principle, over a year ago. The burial grounds, they said, should be available for the thousands of non-Jewish immigrants, as well as foreign workers.



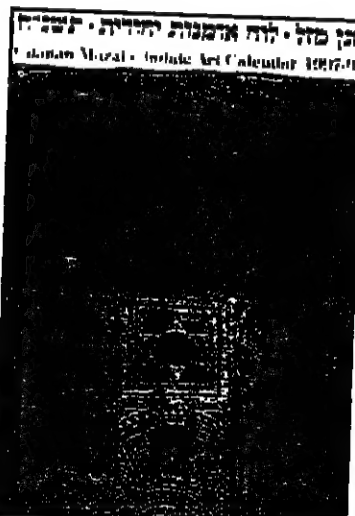
Incoming Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer (second from right), outgoing minister Eli Suissa (second from left), Deputy ministers Yigal Bibi (left) and Arye Gamliel shake hands yesterday.



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Berlin	18	24	28	32	clear
Buenos Aires	10	20	24	28	cloudy
Cairo	23	28	32	36	cloudy
Chicago	18	24	28	32	cloudy
Copenhagen	19	24	28	32	cloudy
Frankfurt	18	24	28	32	cloudy
Geneva	18	24	28	32	cloudy
Helsinki	18	24	28	32	cloudy
Hong Kong	25	28	32	36	rain
Jakarta	25	28	32	36	rain
London	18	24	28	32	cloudy
Los Angeles	22	28	32	36	clear
Moscow	13	20	24	28	cloudy
Munich	14	20	24	28	cloudy
New York	18	24	28	32	cloudy
Paris	18	24	28	32	cloudy
Rome	20	26	30	34	cloudy
Stockholm	12	18	22	26	cloudy
Sydney	18	24	28	32	clear
Tokyo	20	26	30	34	clear
Toronto	18	24	28	32	clear
Vienna	18	24	28	32	clear
Zurich	18	24	28	32	cloudy

Calendars

book department



Chanan Mazal Judaic Art Calendar 1997-98

Calligrapher Chanan Mazal produces an exceptional calendar every year. Each lovely page can be framed. This year is no exception with gold leafed calligraphy and the new paintings interlarded with Jewish symbols reinterpreted in splendid designs. Size: 24 cm x 34.5 cm (9 1/2" x 13 1/2") JP Price: NIS 60



Bible Stories Nachum Gutman Claudia

Mini calendars with frameable paintings and appointment spaces, weekly Torah portions, holidays in Hebrew and English. Choose old favorites from bright Israeli paintings by Gutman or Oleg Tishler's decorative Bible Stories illustrations or this year's new calendar, whimsical illustrations by Claudia. Size: 16 cm x 16 cm (6 3/8" x 6 3/8") JP Price: NIS 21 each



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With illustrations from The British Library. Sixteen months of glorious illuminated manuscripts. 13 plates of biblical scenes from the golden Haggadah (c. 1300) from the British Library. September 1997 through December 1998, with large spaces for appointments, all Jewish holidays, candle-lighting times and Jewish dates. Size: 30.5 cm x 34 cm (12 1/8" x 13 3/8") JP Price: NIS 52

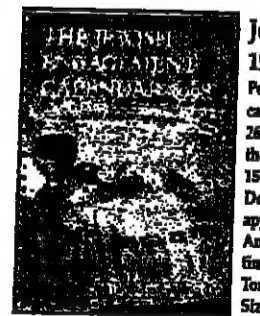


Splendor of the Holy Land David Roberts

Skyviews of Israel Israel 1997-98

Jerusalem 1997-98

Fifteen months from October 1997 through December 1998 with large spaces for appointments. 16x and match favorite photographs by David Roberts, stunning aerial views of Israel and a new tastefully designed photography calendar, "Skyviews of Israel". Popular favorites "Israel" and "Jerusalem" calendars return with dramatic, colorful scenic photographs. Size: 32.5 cm x 25.5 cm (12 3/4" x 10") JP Price: NIS 39 each



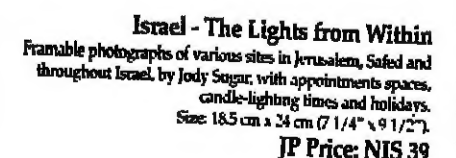
Jewish Engagement Calendar 1998

Popular and useful spiral bound desk calendar, one week per page, illustrated with 26 magnificent full-color photographs from the collection of The Israel Museum. 15 months from October 1997 through December 1998, with large spaces for appointments. Includes all Jewish and North American holidays, world candle-lighting times, holiday chart through 2012, weekly Torah readings. Size: 16 cm x 23 cm (6 1/4" x 9") JP Price: NIS 48



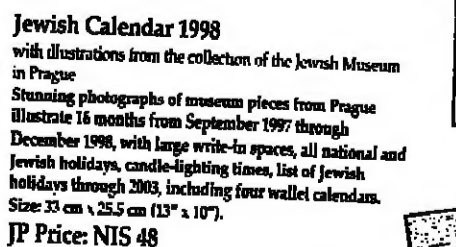
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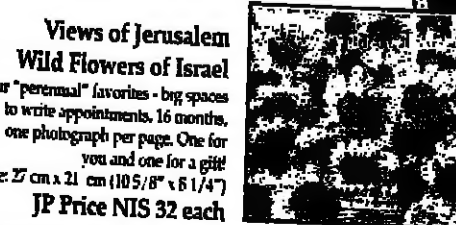
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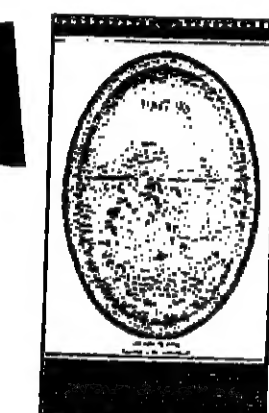
Jewish Calendar 1998

with illustrations from the collection of the Jewish Museum in Prague. Stunning photographs of museum pieces from Prague illustrate 16 months from September 1997 through December 1998, with large write-in spaces, all national and Jewish holidays, candle-lighting times, list of Jewish holidays through 2003, including four wall calendars. Size: 30 cm x 25.5 cm (11 3/4" x 10") JP Price: NIS 48



Views of Jerusalem Wild Flowers of Israel

Our "perennial" favorites - big spaces to write appointments, 16 months, one photograph per page. One for you and one for a gift! Size: 27 cm x 21 cm (10 5/8" x 8 1/4") JP Price: NIS 32 each



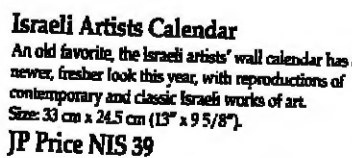
Fantasy of Jewish Festivals

Display calendar, illustrated in charming naive style by Henny Seelig, well-known "primitive" painter. Eleven paintings, one per page, embellished with gold, may be framed. Includes page of explanations about the holidays in Spanish/English/Hebrew. Size: 24.5 cm x 33.5 cm (9 3/4" x 13 1/8") JP Price: NIS 49



Beautiful Israel Hebrew Manuscripts Ben Avraham

Three display calendars with one vibrant poster of a painting per page. Calligrapher Safed artist Ben Avraham, full color photographs of Israeli street scenes and lively colored Hebrew manuscript pages are featured in this triple selection. Each is 30 cm x 32.5 cm (11 3/4" x 12 3/4") JP Price: NIS 28 each



Israeli Artists Calendar

An old favorite, the Israeli artists' wall calendar has a newer, fresher look this year, with reproductions of contemporary and classic Israeli works of art. Size: 33 cm x 24.5 cm (13" x 9 5/8") JP Price: NIS 39

Findings due on Maccabiah disaster

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Findings of the criminal investigation into the Maccabiah bridge collapse should be submitted to the State Attorney's office in a matter of days, police sources said yesterday.

The police report is in "final stages of completion," a spokesperson for the Dan sub-district police department said. The investigation focused on criminal responsibility for the July 14 collapse of a footbridge over the Yarkon river that claimed the lives of four Australian Maccabiah competitors and injured more than 60.

Relatives of Australian victims expressed concern that only the lower echelons of those responsible would be assigned blame, rather than the Maccabiah World Union.

"As we see it, the Israeli system of justice is being tested and we are worried that responsibility for the deaths and injuries will be whitewashed," said Colita Alterman, father of Sasha, a 15-year-old tennis player injured in the accident. Sasha is still being treated at Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel in Petach Tikvah for lung and liver problems that haven't been precisely diagnosed.

A report by the Education Ministry's Dotan Committee released eight days after the disaster blamed a chain of negligence for the collapse, including faulty planning, incompetence, inferior materials, lack of coordination between construction companies and organizing bodies, and lack of technical experience.

It said that a sequence of foul-ups began with engineer Micha Bar-Ilan, who designed the bridge, and continued with the Irgunit construction firm and its subcontractor, Ben-Ezra Construction. It also accused the Maccabiah organizing committee of insufficient oversight of the bridge's construction.

But when the report was released, Maccabiah officials said they were absolved of responsibility. "The report showed that we had no hand whatsoever in this failure," Uzi Netanel, chairman of the Maccabiah World Union, said at the time.

Netanel's remarks angered Alterman.

"If I had a birthday party for a group of children, and I hired a 16-year-old without a driver's license to drive the group on a trip, and they got into an accident, not only would the teenager be responsible, I would be responsible, too. We think the Maccabiah World Union played a major role in what happened and we are fearful that the people who are really responsible will get away," Alterman said.

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the winning cards were the jack of spades, 7 of hearts, 9 of diamonds, and 10 of clubs, and the king of spades, 10 of hearts, queen of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

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